

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

W.R. Grace & Co.

7379 Route 32

Columbia, MD 21044

Congressional District 7

EPA ID #: MDD074933961

Last Updated: 06/26/2008

Current Progress at the Site

In July 1992, EPA issued a RCRA permit to WR Grace.

Grace conducted extensive investigations of soil, groundwater and surface water throughout the late 1980s and 1990s. They have implemented remedial measures including groundwater recovery and treatment, soil vapor extraction, and waste removal and disposal. The groundwater recovery and treatment system began operation in 1989 and continues operation with five recovery wells leading to the granular activated carbon treatment system.

WR Grace submitted the CMS report in February, 1999. EPA reviewed the CMS report and the Human Health Risk Assessment and this report was accepted on April 5, 2006. A Statement of Basis (SB) was signed by EPA on June 29, 2006. The purpose of the SB was to explain EPA's proposed remedy for the Facility; provide a summary of investigation results used in the remedy selection process, and to solicit public comments on the proposed remedy prior to EPA making its final remedy decision.

With the SB, EPA proposed to remediate groundwater contamination at the Facility through a combination of groundwater treatment and monitoring and monitored natural attenuation. On July 13, 2006, EPA placed an announcement in the Columbia Flier to notify the public of EPA's proposed remedy for the Facility and of the location of the Administrative Record

The Final Remedy was issued in the Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC) document on September 14, 2006. The Final Remedy will be implemented through a permit modification to the corrective action permit (the "Permit") issued by EPA to W.R. Grace on July 10, 1992 under Section 3004(u) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), 42 U.S.C. Section 6924(u). The Permit, which on its terms expired on August 14, 2002, was administratively extended by EPA until the effective date of a new or modified corrective action permit.

EPA issued a permit modification to the existing permit for the implement of the Final Remedy on November 6, 2007. The permit was effective on November 30, 2007. The requirements of the permit modification include the continual operation of the groundwater recovery and treatment system and the main site and the remediation of groundwater at the Former Landfill Area using monitored natural attenuation (MNA) until the groundwater Cleanup Standards are achieved. Additionally, a title notice has been filed gives notice of the prohibition for the development of onsite wells for drinking water or other domestic use at the Facility. WRGrace has submitted a Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) workplan for the implementation of the corrective measures selected in the final decision.

Site Description

WR Grace is located in Columbia, Maryland, northeast of Route 32 and north/northwest of Cedar Lane. The facility is approximately 125 acres. The Middle Patuxent River is located just east of the Grace property. The property has been owned and operated by Grace since the 1950s. Until 1997, the facility served as the corporate research and development center, in support of the specialty chemical, building materials, and biomedical components of Grace's business lines. The facility was then referred to as the Washington Research Center, or WRC. In 1997, the specialty chemical unit of Grace, Grace-Davison took over the management of the property, and subsequently relocated their headquarters to the Columbia facility. Today the majority of the buildings are used as offices.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

The contaminants of concern include trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, tetrachloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, and trichlorofluoromethane.

Community Interaction

Grace has worked closely with its two primary adjacent property owners Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD) which is a subsidiary of The Rouse Company and Howard County. HRD and Howard County have plans to establish a Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) to cover hundreds of acres of Howard County. Portions of the planned MPEA involve property owned by HRD that is to be deeded over to Howard County. Two of these areas are adjacent to the Grace property.

Institutional Controls

No onsite wells for drinking water or other domestic use at the Facility. A deed restriction has been used as the mechanism to list the groundwater restriction for successors-in-title to the property.

Government Contact

EPA Project Manager
Ms. Estena A. McGhee - 3LC20
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-3433
Email: mcghee.estena@epa.gov

For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm