

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Rohm & Haas

Route 413 & Old Route 13
Bristol, PA 19007
Congressional District 8
EPA ID #: PAD002292068
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Current Progress at the Site

The following Corrective Action work has been completed for each study area.

Bristol Landfill - The landfill is a 60 acre, pre-RCRA landfill that operated between 1952 and 1975. It was the primary disposal site for plant waste generated during that period of operation. Contaminants of concern are primarily organic compounds. Several metals were also detected at elevated levels.

- The final clean-up remedy is complete. The selected remedy consists of a barrier wall (hydraulic barrier) and soil/synthetic cap to contain the waste material, and consolidation of off-site waste into the containment structure. This remedy protects aquatic life by preventing the release of contamination into the groundwater and surface water. It also prevents human exposure through direct contact with the waste. Construction of the remedy was completed in September 1997.
- Post-construction compliance monitoring and integrity testing to evaluate the effectiveness of the containment structures shows effective containment of contamination. Compliance monitoring is on-going.

Wastewater Treatment Plant - Former industrial treatment plant.

The former treatment plant has been decommissioned and decontaminated. It has been replaced by a tertiary industrial treatment plant.

- The RCRA Facility Investigation work is substantially complete. Rohm & Haas has conducted additional investigations of Treated Water Basin (TWB) #1 and TWB #2, including biological tissue and benthic community sampling, to evaluate the conclusions of the Baseline Environmental Risk Assessment (BERA). Rohm & Haas has proposed to close Treated Water Basin (TWB) 1 and part of TWB 2, and remediate other areas by consolidating the contaminated soil/sediment in the closed basins. The basins are identified as regulated waters by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the PADEP. EPA/PADEP evaluated the BERA and determined that remediation of the basins is not warranted based on low levels of contamination.

Ammonium Sulfate Area - The waste from a past land disposal area has created a dense plume along the surface of the bedrock, along with a disperse groundwater plume. The primary contaminants are ammonia and sulfate. Organics are also present at levels above EPA's drinking water standards.

- The RCRA Facility Investigation work is substantially complete. Migration of the plume and possible future exposure are still being evaluated.

Trailer Staging Area - Fill materials and past surface releases have caused groundwater and soil contamination in this area. The primary contaminants of concern are organic compounds. Some metals are also present at elevated levels.

- The RCRA Facility Investigation is complete.
- A pilot study for in-situ bioremediation is underway.

Manufacturing Area - Some investigation of the area has been conducted. The primary contaminants of concern are organic compounds.

Site Description

The Rohm and Haas Bristol Facility is an 800 acre active manufacturing plant that has operated as a chemical manufacturer since 1917. It is located north of Philadelphia along the west bank of the Delaware River, adjacent to the communities of Croydon and Bristol, Pennsylvania. The plant currently produces plastics and emulsion polymers. A variety of chemicals were produced there during the plant's production history. This large facility has several distinct disposal and contamination areas, therefore, the investigation has been divided into five (5) study areas.

Site Responsibility

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

Contaminants

The primary chemicals of concern at the facility are organic compounds, ammonium, sulfate, and elevated levels of some metals. The groundwater beneath the facility discharges to surrounding surface water; namely, the Delaware River, Hog Hun Creek, Otter Creek, and on-site ponds. Releases of contamination from the landfill are controlled. Area groundwater users are not impacted by the facility contamination.

Community Interaction

EPA issued a Statement of Basis describing the landfill remedy and conducted a public hearing. A public meeting was held after the design work was complete. The RCRA Project Manager has attended several meetings with the local civic association and citizen's advisory board to keep the local population informed of the site activities. Rohm & Haas holds regular meetings with the citizen's advisory board to discuss environmental activities at the facility.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls are in place for the Bristol Landfill. Waste is encapsulated by a barrier wall

that extends from the ground surface to the underlying bedrock. An impermeable, multilayer cap prevents waste exposure at the surface. The area is fenced, and activities are restricted to approved operation and maintenance. Groundwater use within the landfill containment area is restricted to monitoring and maintenance activities. Groundwater use outside the landfill is not restricted, but is not used.

The active manufacturing area is fenced to control access, and the on-site groundwater is not used as a water source.

Government Contact

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

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