

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **Superior Tube Company**

**3900 Germantown Pike  
Evansburg, PA 19426  
Congressional District 13  
EPA ID #: PAD002353407  
Last Updated: 07/14/2008**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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The company has been aware of groundwater issues near its facility since 1979. At that time, a spill of trichloroethylene (TCE) apparently seeped into a drainage ditch and nearby stream. By agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Superior initiated a groundwater study and remediation program to reduce contamination.

In July 1990, STC agreed to perform the following actions under the direction of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect human health and the environment:

- Interim Measures under which the company is taking immediate actions to address short-term risks. STC currently implements groundwater pump and treat to control and treat groundwater contaminants.
- RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), under which the company comprehensively assessed the nature and extent of releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents into the environment. The RFI Report was completed and approved by the EPA in 1992.
- A Corrective Measures Study (CMS), which develops and evaluates possible approaches to address any threat to human health or the environment posed by such releases. Subsequent to the RFI Report, submission of the CMS was approved by EPA.
- Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI), which is the process by which the corrective action measures are designed and implemented.

On December 28, 1998, STC agreed to implement remediation pursuant to the Corrective Measures Implementation Consent Order. The remediation consisted of soil excavation, groundwater pump and treat, in-situ soil vapor extraction, and closures of solid wastes management units. Presently, STC monitors and remediates groundwater to ensure that human health and the environment continue to be protected.

In 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has been

conducting an air monitoring program in the Collegeville-Trappe area. In the data collected so far, PADEP found higher than average annual concentrations of TCE which has a significant bearing on excess lifetime cancer risks. PADEP is pursuing voluntary emission reductions from TCE-emitting facilities in the area while continuing to monitor the air. For more information, please contact Francine Carlini, Air Program Manager for the PADEP Southeast Office at (484) 250-5920 or Lynda Rebarchak, PADEP Southeast Office Community Relations Coordinator at (484) 250-5820. An official PADEP news release on the study's findings can be found by following this link:

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/news/cwp/view.asp?a=1278&q=517023>

Furthermore, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected in the groundwater in the immediate area of triangle formed by Germantown Pike, Evansburg Road, and Ridge Pike and the area south including Pechin Mill and Cross Keys Roads. The PADEP, and the Montgomery County Health Department are conducting additional groundwater sampling of residential and commercial wells in this area. In addition, groundwater data and other investigative data will be evaluated to determine the source of the VOC contamination. For additional information relating to the groundwater sampling please contact David Ewald at PA DEP at 484-250-5725

## **Site Description**

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Superior Tube Company (STC) is a specialty tube manufacturer located in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, at the intersection of Germantown Pike and Cross Keys Road. The 96-acre site is situated along the French Run, a tributary of Perkiomen Creek. Since 1935, STC has manufactured specialty cold drawn, precision tubing and tubular parts. The principal operations at the facility include drawing, welding, degreasing, pickling, annealing, cutting, forming, grinding, polishing, coating, and sandblasting metal tubing.

## **Site Responsibility**

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

## **Institutional Controls**

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Superior Tube Co. will continue to monitor and if necessary replace carbon filters for residential treatment system for groundwater contamination.

## **Contaminants**

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The primary substance of concern at the site is trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent that is used as a degreaser at the facility. A release of approximately 1,800 gallons of TCE occurred in 1979 when TCE was accidentally released from a carbon steel pipeline located in a shipping dock floor trench. Following the incident, contaminated surface water and soil were removed and the piping was replaced. The spill event led to the installation of additional groundwater recovery wells and air strippers to treat the groundwater.

## Community Interaction

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Significant community involvement regarding the environmental impacts of the Superior facility began in 1979 with the TCE spill. In the period immediately following the spill, STC was in frequent contact with residents affected by ground water contamination. The company provided information on the resulting ground water contamination and responded, as appropriate, to residents' requests for additional sampling. As a result of the TCE spill, STC installed a water line to serve approximately 40 homes and provided carbon filtration systems for approximately 12 additional locations. Since that time, STC has continued to correspond with local residents as needed. Most of this correspondence has been associated with ground water contamination, involving requests for well sampling and maintenance of filtration systems. Superior's overall relationship with its nearby neighbors has generally been a cordial one, with the company providing information to community members and responding to community concerns as appropriate.

## Government Contacts

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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](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## Facility Contact

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