

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

# **American Nickeloid Company**

**129 Cherry Street  
Walnutport, PA 18088  
Congressional District 15  
EPA ID #: PAD002399285**

**Site Property Area: Approximately 30 Acres  
Last Updated: 07/01/2008**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

American Nickeloid Company (ANC) is continuing to pump and treat groundwater from two recovery sumps and four wells. Approximately 18 pounds of chromium was removed from the groundwater during the first quarter of 2008 and approximately 63.5 pounds of chromium was removed in 2006.

Soil associated with a chromium soil washing project were disposed of off-site in April 2007. The contaminated soil was generated during the installation of the two recovery sumps in the chrome plating area of the plant building in August 1997. These soils initially contained chromium concentrations ranging from 9,700 mg/kg to 42,200 mg/kg. The EPA RBC for hexavalent chromium in industrial soils is 6,100 mg/kg and the regulatory level for chromium to exhibit the toxicity characteristic for a hazardous waste is 5.0 mg/L. The soils were shipped off-site for disposal because they still exhibited the toxicity characteristic after several rounds of soil washing.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is overseeing ANC's efforts to further characterize the former surface impoundments. ANC collected soil samples from various depths within the impoundments and berms in the summer of 2003 and PADEP collected additional soil samples from the impoundment area in October 2004. The soil sample locations were selected to assess the berms that border the former impoundments. The soil samples were analyzed for total chromium, hexavalent chromium, copper and nickel. None of the samples collected contained chromium at concentrations above the PADEP medium specific concentrations (MSCs). Only one sample collected by PADEP (sample no. C-13) contained nickel (673 mg/kg) at a slightly higher concentration than PADEP's soil-to-groundwater MSC of 650 mg/kg).

## **Site Description**

American Nickeloid Company is a specialty metal plating facility in operation since 1923 in Walnutport, PA. The facility is located on 40 acres and is bordered on the west by the Lehigh Canal which is adjacent to the Lehigh River. Residential properties are situated to the south and southeast.

American Nickeloid has been under an EPA Administrative Order since 1993. Under the Order, American Nickeloid began implementation of remedies at the following areas: Chrome-plating area, Former Naphtha Tank Area, and the Former Surface Impoundment Area.

American Nickeloid has created a hydraulic barrier to prevent contaminated groundwater from entering the Lehigh River. Chromium contaminated groundwater is removed from the facility and treated on-site.

American Nickeloid has closed the Former Surface Impoundment Area under the supervision of PADEP. A groundwater recovery and treatment program for this area began in 1985 and is still in operation. Quarterly groundwater monitoring continues at the site.

The American Nickeloid facility achieved a “Yes” determination for the Current Human Exposures Under Control Environmental Indicator (EI) in September 2002. The facility achieved a “Yes” determination for the Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control EI in September 2003 after it was demonstrated that the conversion of monitoring well B-2 to a recovery well adequately prevents contaminated groundwater from escaping the Former Surface Impoundment Area toward the Lehigh Canal.

## **Site Responsibility**

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at the American Nickeloid facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA. PADEP has been overseeing RCRA closure of the Former Surface Impoundment Area.

## **Contaminants**

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The main contaminant in the groundwater is chromium from wastes at the Former Surface Impoundment Area and releases of chromic acid from the Chrome-plating area. Naphtha has also been found in the groundwater near the Former Naphtha Tank Area. Naphtha and chrome have also been found in the soil.

## **Community Interaction**

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If there is further action, EPA will inform the public.

## **Institutional Controls**

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As part of its quarterly monitoring requirements per the Administrative Order, American Nickeloid is required to determine if Walnutport Municipal Well #5 is running, and if so, American Nickeloid is required to collect a sample for total chromium analysis. Municipal Well #5 was not running on March 13, 2008, the most recent time American Nickeloid contacted the municipality for sampling.

## **Government Contact**

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