

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

DuPont EI Denemours & Co., Inc.

New James Street and Patterson Boulevard

Towanda, PA 18848-9784

Congressional District 10

EPA ID #: PAD003038056

Site Property Area: 51 Acres

Last Updated: 06/10/2008

Current Progress at the Site

EPA is currently reviewing the Statement of Basis and Permit Modification that will propose and implement a final decision for the DuPont facility. Once approved, they will be put out for a public notice period. This is expected to be completed by the end of June 2008.

Site Description

The Du Pont facility is located on New James Street and Patterson Boulevard in North Towanda Township, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The DuPont plant occupies a 51-acre parcel of land the northern side of Towanda, PA and borders Sugar Creek. This Facility has been operation since the early 1940s and is a manufacturing site for X-ray screens, coated films, and wet-processing solutions.

In these processes Du Pont used various chlorinated solvents and methylene chloride. These substances have been found in the groundwater. The Du Pont-Towanda facility is currently under a RCRA permit for the storage of hazardous waste and a Corrective Action Permit to investigate and define contamination. On the basis of this investigation Du Pont has found groundwater contamination in 2 areas. In one area the groundwater is contaminated with methylene chloride, possible from a storage tank which has been removed. In 1994, Du Pont found methylene chloride contaminated groundwater seeping into Sugar Creek and quickly built a system to intercept and treat it. From 1995 to 1996, Du Pont recovered 190 pounds of methylene chloride by pumping contaminated groundwater from this area and sending it to the on-site methylene chloride recovery system. In late 1996, Du Pont stopped using methylene chloride in their manufacturing processes. Since that time, Du Pont shut down the recovery system and is monitoring the contaminated groundwater. The contamination remains on-site and is not spreading.

In the second location, Du Pont has been and continues to monitor groundwater contaminated with chlorinated solvents and their breakdown products. The presence of breakdown products shows that natural processes are degrading the solvents. In neither case, is the contamination moving off-site nor posing a threat to human health or the environment.

The groundwater in both areas is closely monitored and is contained on-site. The groundwater does not pose a risk because the groundwater is not used for drinking water and geologic conditions are preventing the plume from expanding. There is also evidence that the plume is degrading due to the action of naturally occurring microbes.

EPA recently worked with DuPont to resolve issues that rose from a PADEP review of the site regarding site characterization. The focus was on verifying that TCE is not migrating from MW-08 in the "Glacial Till" into the "Silt and Sand" aquifer which is used as part of the regional water supply.

DuPont installed two wells to monitor the lower aquifer in the vicinity of MW-08, as requested by EPA. Upon well completion, samples were taken to determine if the capture zone of the pumping well, SW-04, is sufficient to intercept any contamination possibly migrating from the "Glacial Till" layer where MW-08 is located, to verify pathway elimination by the pumping well, and to obtain TCE concentrations in this lower aquifer. Sampling data was finalized and incorporated into the 2nd Half 2006 Interim Remedial Measure Status Report submitted on May 29, 2007. EPA approved the conclusions, including that TCE is not migrating from MW-08 in the "Glacial Till" into the "Silt and Sand" aquifer which is used as part of the regional water supply, on October 11, 2007.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Du Pont-Towanda facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA with assistance from PADEP.

Contaminants

The main contaminants in the groundwater are methylene chloride and other chlorinated solvents.

Community Interaction

EPA is working on a Statement of Basis for a Final Remedy. When these documents are ready, EPA will solicit comments from the public on the proposed final remedy.

Institutional Controls

There are currently no institutional controls established at this facility. They will be established in the Statement of Basis and Final Remedy decision.

Government Contacts

EPA Project Manager
Mr. Kevin Bilash - 3LC30
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-2796
Email: bilash.kevin@epa.gov

Facility Contact

Du Pont Technologies
Mr. James A. Hasse
R.R. 1, Box 15
Patterson Boulevard
Towanda, PA 18848-9784

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