

Hercules Incorporated

27123 Shady Brook Trail
Courtland, VA 23837-2034
Congressional District 4
EPA ID #: VAD003122165
Last Updated: 12/19/2008

Current Progress at the Site

Hercules entered into a Facility-Lead Agreement with EPA for RCRA Corrective Action in October 1999. Hercules agreed to conduct environmental investigations at the facility and perform any remediation.

Hercules completed most of the site characterization as well as remediation of several solid waste management units. The first phase of site characterization and limited remediation is documented in a Release Assessment (ERM; March 1999) and the second phase of site characterization is documented in a Release Assessment Addendum (GES; January 2002). The Facility provided a schedule of additional work. Groundwater remediation in the Vulcup area is on-going. An investigation into possible sources of groundwater contamination beneath the Vulcup area was submitted and approved by EPA in June 2007 and the Report for the work will be submitted in 2009.

EPA approved sampling plans for four additional focused investigations. Hercules completed groundwater sampling of private wells located around the facility and found no site-related compounds. Hercules met the environmental indicator for human health exposures under control in September 2004. In 2009, EPA and Hercules will evaluate the site characterization data to determine if Groundwater Releases at the facility are controlled. Remedial work for the West Area lagoon and pits is scheduled to start in 2009. EPA approved the concept design in June 2008.

Site Description

The Hercules Franklin, Virginia facility encompasses 120 acres, with 30 acres developed, and is located at the intersection of Routes 671 and 650 in Franklin, Virginia. Since 1955, the facility has been a chemical processing plant primarily producing rosin, fatty acids and organic peroxides. The primary raw material used at the facility is Tall Oil derived from the wood pulping industry. Historically, Hercules managed wastes in on-site landfills, a spray field, lagoons and pits, but discontinued these waste disposal methods in favor of upgraded waste handling. The current processes generate wastewater, non-contact cooling water, biological sludge and spent solvents from the on-site quality control laboratory. The wastewater treatment plant was upgraded and produces little sludge, which is shipped off-site under VADEQ permit. The lagoon and sprayfield are no longer used, and the lagoon is to be removed.

In 2001, Hercules sold two of the three business units that operate at the facility while maintaining ownership of the facility property. The resins business was sold to Eastman Chemical Resins, Inc. and the organic peroxides business was sold to GEO Specialty Chemical Company. Hercules retained the Aqualon business and responsibility for past site releases.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Philadelphia, PA.

Contaminants

The site characterization data indicate that onsite soil and groundwater contain 1,2 - dichloropropane (PDC), benzene, acetone, heptane, phenols, petroleum hydrocarbons and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons.

Community Interaction

The Facility has developed a community relations plan that is a part of the Agreement. Public participation is included as appropriate.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

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

Facility Contact

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