

Celanese Acetate LLC

Celco Plant
Route 460/3520 Virginia Ave
Narrows, VA 24124
Congressional District 9
EPA ID #: VAD005007679
Last Updated: 11/13/09

Current Progress at the Site

During January 2006, Celanese Acetate, LLC (Celanese) entered into a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III (USEPA), Facility Lead Agreement (Agreement) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and agreed to conduct environmental investigations and perform remediation, as necessary to meet RCRA Corrective Action Goals. Prior to entering the Agreement, a National Corrective Action Prioritization System (NCAPS) ranking was prepared for the Celco Site in 1996. Since then, Celanese has performed numerous voluntary environmental evaluations and corrective actions at the facility, many of which have been in cooperation with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).

In March 2006, A Draft Final RCRA Site Visit Report was prepared by USEPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which consolidated relevant information from the USEPA site visit conducted in October 2005.

In March 2006, Celanese met with USEPA/VDEQ to present an overview of activities completed at the Celco Facility.

In May 2006, Celanese submitted a Site Strategy Workplan to address Corrective Action at the facility along with a Schedule to USEPA and VDEQ.

In June 2006, Celanese submitted a Fact Sheet to USEPA and VDEQ.

In October 2006, Celanese submitted a Description of Current Conditions (DOCC) Report and a Community Relations Plan to USEPA and VDEQ.

In December 2006, Celanese submitted an Annual Report, updated Fact Sheet, and updated Site Strategy Workplan and Schedule to USEPA and VDEQ.

In April 2007, Celanese met with USEPA to present an overview of activities completed at the Celco Facility.

In October 2007, USEPA and VDEQ were provided a site tour of the Celco Site.

In December 2007, Celanese submitted an Annual Report, updated Fact Sheet and updated Site Strategy Workplan and Schedule to USEPA and VDEQ.

In 2007, in addition to the actions listed above, Celanese completed the construction of the following remedial actions in accordance w/ VDEQ's approval and oversight:

- Closure of White Sludge Pond B
- Closure of Flyash Ponds 2 and 4
- Implementation of a remedy at the ammonia discharge area by the landfills and
- Implementation of a remedy at the Closed Process Sludge Landfill.

These actions are described in detail in the Description of Current Conditions (DOCC) document submitted to USEPA and VDEQ in October 2006 and in subsequent monitoring report submittals.

In July 2008, EPA and VDEQ completed an in-depth site tour and discussion with the facility.

In August 2009, EPA transmitted to Celanese comments on the DOCC and requested Celanese to provide supplemental information and complete comprehensive investigations to clarify the extent of all wastes and releases at the property, and to begin to identify institutional controls to prevent future exposures. Institutional Controls (ICs) are legal and administrative devices that help to protect the integrity of the required corrective action measures selected by EPA.

Celanese has requested EPA to review additional information it will be submitting during November/December 2009 and refine their request for investigation.

Site Description

The Celco Plant is located east of Narrows, Virginia along U.S. Route 460. The plant occupies approximately 1231 acres and is divided into two major areas separated by Route 460. The plant area located adjacent to the New River, and the landfill area located on the hillside north of the plant area. The site is characterized by a narrow, flat valley floor surrounded by relatively steep mountainous hillsides and ridge tops. The site is underlain by multiple geologic layers including clastic rocks (i.e., sandstone, siltstone, mudstones) and carbonate (i.e., limestone) rocks. The carbonate rocks dominate the valley floor areas with the clastic rocks found on the hillsides

The Celco Plant has been in operation since late 1939 and manufactures fiber-based products. Raw materials in the formulation of cellulose acetate are cellulose (wood pulp), acetic anhydride, acetic acid, sulfuric acid, and magnesium oxide. The facility utilizes an on-site power plant that burns bituminous coal to produce steam and electricity at the site. Wastes are managed in on-site landfills, wastewater treatment operations, surface impoundments, regeneration/ recycling, and off-site treatment and disposal.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Celco Plant are being conducted under the direction of USEPA, in coordination with VDEQ. Several existing and ongoing closures and other remedial activities are currently being conducted under the direction of VADEQ.

Contaminants

The major constituents being investigated include volatile organics (e.g., acetone, benzene, chloroethane, 1,2 dichloroethane, tetrachloroethene), semi-volatile organics (e.g., dibenzofuran, 2-Methylnaphthalene, naphthalene) and inorganics including metals (e.g., Antimony, arsenic cadmium and ammonia).

Community Interaction

Celanese has an established Community Advisory Panel (CAP) which is informed annually (more often if requested) regarding facility operations and activities.

- A meeting of the Celco Community Advisory Panel was conducted on November 8, 2006 at the Celco Tech Center.
- A meeting of the Celco Community Advisory Panel was conducted on November 5, 2007 at the Celco Tech Center.
- A meeting of the Celco Community Advisory Panel was conducted on November 13, 2008 at the Celco Tech Center.
- A meeting of the Celco Community Advisory Panel is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at the Celco Tech Center.

Government Contact

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

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