

Intermet Radford Shell Plant (Formerly: Lynchburg Foundry)

1605 First Street
Radford, VA 24141
Congressional District 9
EPA ID #: VAD010063006
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Current Progress at the Site

In August 2000, EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality completed a site visit of the facility to review the status of one of the EPA Region III's high priority RCRA corrective action sites. The review of background data indicates that there has been a release of hazardous contaminants on site and that there is insufficient data to determine the extent of such release.

On March 27, 2002, EPA and Intermet entered into an RCRA Administrative Order on Consent to conduct an environmental investigation and/or clean up measures as necessary to protect human health and the environment. The adjacent New River Castings Facility, VAD 98 173 0930, is included in the project due to the common ownership, waste management practices and contaminant commingling.

The facility has completed the implementation of the Phase I RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan for the environmental investigation of the site wide groundwater and soils at various areas. A Summary report with the results of the investigations was submitted to EPA in May 2004. A conference call was held on June 7, 2004 to discuss EPA comments on the report. A Phase II RFI workplan for soil investigations at the rest of the site will be submitted to EPA. Also, EPA has approved a closure plan for the Emission Dust Treatment Area in 2003. Closure activities which included cleaning of the concrete pad and soil sampling were completed.

Intermet filed for bankruptcy in September 2004 and because of this the submittal of the Phase II workplan was put on hold. A Closure Report for SWMUs 41 and 52 in March 2005. The report was approved in November 2005.

Intermet submitted a closure plan for the landfill in July 2005. Comments were submitted by EPA in August 2005 and a conference call was held to discuss the comments. A formal response to EPA comments is still pending.

In August 2007, EPA, Intermet and VADEQ held a conference call to discuss pending issues at the Intermet Facility. A workplan for the Phase II investigations was submitted in February 2008; EPA submitted comments in April 2008. A conference call to discuss Intermet's responses comments was held in June 23, 2008. The final workplan has not been finalized due to economic status of the site at this time.

Site Description

The Intermet Radford Foundry, Radford Plant, is located in the City of Radford, Virginia, along the New River. The site is approximately 323 acres. The facility is situated on a narrow floodplain of the New River, and the site topography slopes toward the river. The Intermet Radford Foundry has been during most of its history, a manufacturer of automotive parts and heavy construction equipment. In May 2003, Intermet announced the closing of the Radford Foundry by the end of the year.

The Radford facility began operations in the early 1900s producing grey iron and ductile iron castings. The main hazardous wastes generated traditionally have been cupola and electric induction furnace baghouse dusts (D006, D008) and carbide slag (D003). The facility also included a pipe foundry cupola operation which was sold and discontinued operations in April, 1990. Disposal of pipe foundry cupola dust also discontinued in April 1990. A Special Foundry, used for manufacturing large castings, was closed in 1977. Foundry operations include the Intermet Radford Foundry which utilizes cupola melting, and the adjacent New River Foundry which uses electric induction melting. Prior to 1998, the Intermet Radford foundry was known as the Lynchburg Foundry, Radford Plant. The Medium Casting Foundry became the New River Foundry through a purchase in October 1986. The Intermet Radford Foundry is physically separate from and has a different hazardous waste EPA ID # than the New River Foundry.

Foundry waste disposal began in the 1920's and Cupola dust was land filled on the 17 acre site, and later, a combination of cupola dust and baghouse dust was land filled after settling in a slurry pond and dewatering in a holding pond. Both ponds were located in the landfill area, and the landfill and both ponds became solid waste management units (SWMUs). Subsequent to 1980, following promulgation of RCRA, a mixing area for baghouse dust was established to mix non-hazardous foundry waste with the baghouse dust prior to disposal in the landfill. In 1993, a baghouse dust treatment system, which renders the dust nonhazardous prior to generation, became operational. A RCRA closure plan, as required by a VADEQ Consent Order, was approved in July 1997 for the baghouse dust mixing area. The facility is proceeding with closure of this hazardous waste management unit.

Site Responsibility

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

Contaminants

Historical groundwater sampling data collected between 1983-1985 in proximity to an old (1790's-1982) unlined landfill exceeded action levels for cadmium and lead. In addition, the Radford facility detected a release from an underground storage tank when it was removed in 1989. Groundwater was analyzed at three wells and the action level exceeded was the State standard for TPH-Diesel at one of the wells. The facility is currently addressing the petroleum groundwater plume by a pump and treat remediation system. Lead, arsenic and other metals have been detected in the soils at levels above risk based screening criteria.

Receptors

Any potentially contaminated groundwater is discharging into the New River. The source of water for the City of Radford is upstream from the facility. The closest downstream drinking water user is approximately ten miles. There are no known groundwater receptors. Facility personnel and nearby residents may be exposed to soil containing lead and cadmium dust as a result of air emission releases that have occurred. Potential exposures to surficial soils contamination are currently under control based on the security and access control measures in place at the Internet facility.

Community Interaction

EPA will include community interaction in any Federal Corrective Action Remediation.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

Government Contacts

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

Facility Contact

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