

Cooper Industries

Route 660
Earlsville, VA 22936
Congressional District 7
EPA ID #: VAD023717853
Last Updated: 12/31/2008

Current Progress at the Site

Since 1992, Cooper Industries (Cooper) has been operating a remediation system to treat contaminated groundwater at the facility in accordance with a RCRA Corrective Action Consent Order. Previously, Cooper completed an investigation at the facility and selected an appropriate remedy. All sources of contaminants (including drain pits, underground concrete tanks, sludge pits and trenches, and the sanitary lagoon) were cleaned up under EPA or the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) authority, as appropriate.

Groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues to be the focus of the remedial activities at the facility. Pursuant to the Consent Order, Cooper operates a pump and treat system to contain and cleanup contaminated groundwater. Groundwater that is recovered is treated through two activated carbon units in series to remove the VOCs, then discharged to a surface water stream, in accordance with a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Cooper collects and analyzes groundwater samples on a semiannual basis to evaluate the effectiveness of the system over time.

After reevaluating the historical data, Cooper modified the groundwater remediation system in 1999 to add two recovery wells in the source area. Cooper also ceased operating three recovery wells located at the fringe of the plume. Groundwater recovery was discontinued at these wells because data indicated that pumping at these perimeter wells provided limited mass removal and was potentially promoting plume migration away from the source area.

Cooper's most recent Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report, submitted in February 2008, indicates that VOC contaminant levels have generally decreased or remained relatively constant during the six-month reporting period. Approximately 40 pounds of VOC contaminants were removed from ground water in the second half of 2007. This indicates that the pump and treat system continues to effectively cleanup the ground water and control the migration of contamination in the ground water.

Site Description

The Cooper facility is located about 10 miles north of Charlottesville, Virginia along Route 660 in Earlsville, Virginia. The facility consists of about 225,000 square feet under roof and covers about 90 acres in a residential/industrial area. Electrical distribution equipment was manufactured at this facility since opening as Panorama Corporation in 1962. Other operations at the facility included Murray Manufacturing in 1967, Arrow Hart in 1970, and Crouse-Hinds in 1975. Cooper acquired the facility in 1981. Manufacturing processes included stamping, grinding, welding, painting, and plating of metal parts. In 1992, the manufacturing operations were sold to Siemens; however, Cooper retained ownership of the property and improvements. Siemens ceased manufacturing operations in 1997 and vacated the property. In 1999, Mr. Donnie Foster purchased the property and leases the buildings as commercial and industrial office/warehouse space.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted pursuant to an EPA RCRA Section 3008(h) Corrective Measures Implementation Consent Order. EPA is the lead agency for the site, with assistance from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).

Contaminants

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater are the contaminants of concern. These compounds primarily consist of tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE).

Community Interaction

Informational public meetings have been held in the past. Community groups or interested citizens interested in receiving additional information, may contact the government or facility contacts provided below.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls were required by the Corrective Measures Implementation Consent Order.

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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