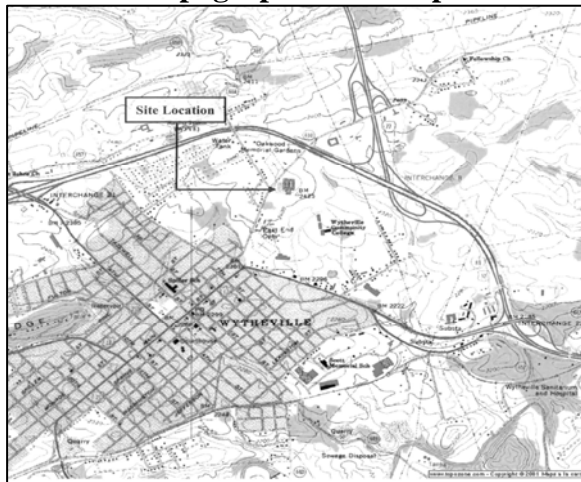


## Region 3 GPRA 2020 Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

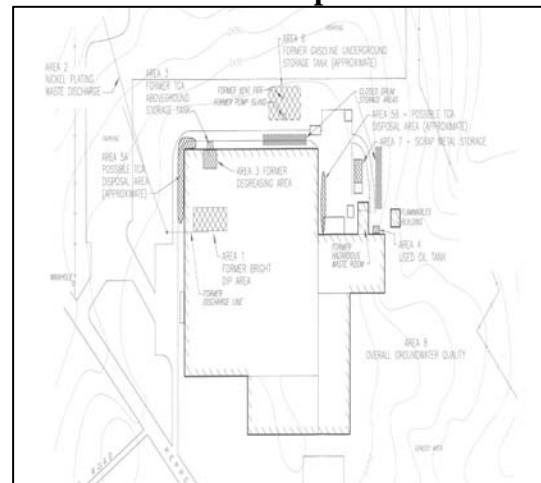
# Emerson Electric Co. (Former Alco Controls Division)

555 Peppers Ferry Road  
Wytheville, VA 24382  
Congressional District 9  
EPA ID Number: VAD065415457  
Last Updated: 07/07/2009

**Topographic Site Map**



**Site Map**



Wytheville, VA USGS Quadrangle (Photo revised 1991)

## **Current RCRA CA Activities**

The EPA Region III has delegated the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the lead agency for oversight of corrective action (CA) at the former Emerson Electric Co. (formerly known as Alco Controls Division) facility in Wytheville, Virginia, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The Emerson facility site is on the RCRA CA 2020 GPRA Baseline Universe List (2020 CA Universe List) and was ranked as a low priority site under the National Corrective Action Prioritization System (NCAPS).

In Virginia, the EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are conducting CA site assessments and evaluations of facilities on the 2020 CA Universe List, which were ranked medium, low, or unranked under NCAPS. The facility site assessments and evaluations are being conducted with primary assistance from an EPA contracted consultant. The evaluations and findings in the CA site assessment are documented in a Final RCRA CA Site Visit Report for the subject facility.

The facility specific Final CA Site Visit Report is essentially a Phase I Site Assessment Report, which includes facility information documented from the site visits, site meetings, and the administrative record established from file searches of the DEQ's Central Office, Office of Hazardous Waste (OHW) files, the DEQ's Regional Office files (all media), and the EPA's RCRA files or records.

The Final CA Site Visit Report provides an inventory of a facility's hazardous waste management units (HWMUs), solid waste management units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOCs), a preliminary assessment of the HWMUs, SWMUs, and AOCs based upon the evaluation and findings of the researched administrative record, the site visit, engineered controls, available environmental data, waste characteristics, the past regulatory oversight of operations and closure of SWMUs and AOCs, and the perceived potential risk to human health and the environment posed by the facility from actual or potential releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents to the environment, potential migration pathways, potential target receptors, etc.

In Virginia, the Final CA Site Visit Report will be a primary basis to determine if many of the facilities on the 2020 CA Universe List will need a CA investigation to assess potential releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents from the facility's HWMUs, SWMUs, or AOCs or if the EPA and the DEQ may recommended No-further Action (NFA) for CA for the site under the RCRA Regulations.

On August 26, 2008, a CA site visit was performed by the EPA, the DEQ, the EPA contracted consultant, and representatives of Emerson to assess and evaluate the facility regarding the potential need for CA.

A Final RCRA CA Site Visit Report, dated February 18, 2009, was submitted to the EPA and the DEQ, by the EPA contracted consultant. The EPA Region III has delegated the DEQ as the lead agency for technical and administrative oversight of corrective action (CA) at the former Emerson facility.

Any future investigations and clean up activities at the facility will be implemented in accordance with the conditions and requirements of the Facility Lead Agreement (FLA) with the EPA under the EPA Region III Facility Lead Corrective Action Program under the RCRA.

On September 10, 2008 EPA Region 3 requested that Emerson participate in the RCRA CA program under a FLA.

On October 8, 2008, Emerson accepted invitation to participate in the RCRA CA program under a FLA.

The FLA approach encourages RCRA Corrective Action facilities to take the lead in addressing corrective action using a generic, non-enforceable, agreement which includes the same requirements, and relies on the same scope of work and policy as a permit or an order. By agreeing to participate in the Facility Lead Corrective Action Program with EPA, the Facility commits to:

- Determine the extent and sources of all releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous waste constituents at or from the Facility using quality data.
- Evaluate and meet EPA's Environmental Indicators.
- Perform interim measures (IMs) at the Facility to prevent or mitigate unacceptable threats to human health and the environment by: 1) controlling human exposures, and 2) controlling migration of any groundwater contamination at or from the Facility from releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents.
- Conduct effective public involvement.
- Communicate regularly to EPA, the State, and the community on corrective action progress at the facility.

Under the FLA, the EPA and the DEQ agrees to provide an appropriate level of oversight to assist the facility to meet these goals. As noted, the EPA has delegated the primary oversight responsibilities for this site to the DEQ.

## **Site Description**

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The former Emerson Electric Corporation, Alco Controls Division (Emerson) facility is located at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, Virginia 24382. The former Emerson facility is located in a commercial and light industrial area on a 20.7-acre parcel on the north side of Wytheville. The facility is currently bordered by two hotels and Wytheville Community College to the north and east, the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority to the south, and Peppers Ferry Road to the north and west. Interstate 81 is located farther to the north (approximately 0.5 mile) of the site. Farm Credit and Country Mortgages, Oakwood Cemetery, King and King Enterprises, and several residences are located across Peppers Ferry Road to the west.

The current owner of the Emerson facility (including buildings and property) is the Emerson Charitable Trust under the parent ownership of Emerson Electric Company, 8000 West Florissant Avenue, P.O. Box 4100, St. Louis, MO 63136-8506, Phone No. (324) 553-3800. The primary representative for the facility is Mr. Harold J. Lamboley, Jr., Vice President of

Environmental Affairs and Real Estate. Mr. Lamboley signed the letter of commitment for Emerson entering the facility into EPA Region III's Facility Lead Agreement (FLA) Program to conduct corrective action at the site under RCRA.

The facility initially operated as a textile mill and a knitting mill (Wyomissing Corporation) from 1935 until 1974. Emerson Electric Corporation purchased the Alco Control Company in 1967. Alco manufactured refrigeration valves and expansion valves. Tuttle Electric, which was purchased and owned by Emerson Electric, began production of open coil electric heating elements for commercial dryers and refrigerators at this site in 1974. In 1981, the Alco Controls Division of Emerson Electric, purchased the property and took over production operations at the site. Alco Controls, under the ownership of Emerson, manufactured refrigeration control valves on the property from the late 1970s until 2001, when the facility was closed. On January 27, 2008, Emerson Electric changed the name of the Alco Controls Division Products, to Emerson Climate Technologies Flow Controls. This name change occurred after Emerson terminated the operations at the Alco Controls Division Products at the Wytheville facility.

Before operations ceased at the facility in 2001, a staff of 32 people worked in the production areas and office. Primary operations at the site included turning, welding, honing, grinding, spray painting, assembling, testing, warehousing, and packaging.

The Emerson manufacturing facility consisted of four buildings that covered approximately 139,000 square feet of the 20.7-acre parcel. Outdoor features include a chip storage area and two paved parking lots. The entire Emerson facility contains three parcels (lots). Lot 1 is 1.5 acres in size and is located at the north end of the property, next to Peppers Ferry Road. The area was formerly used as an employee parking lot, and there are no buildings on the lot. Lot 2 is located to the southeast of the facility, and consists of 7.2 acres of undeveloped open land. Lot 3 consists of approximately 12 acres and contains the former Emerson plant and surrounding land. All manufacturing operations took place on Lot 3, where the original facility buildings were constructed. Lots 1 and 3 were never legally subdivided, but the distinction between the two lots was used during investigation and remediation of the property under the VDEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP).

The original facility buildings (Buildings 1, 2, and 3 on Lot 3) were constructed in 1935 on farmland. An addition was added to the southern portion of the facility in the early 1950s.

Chromolox, a division of Emerson Electric, leased the southern portion of the building from approximately 1974 to 1977. The first courtyard, the location of the Emerson's Former bright dip operations, was enclosed in 1974. A second courtyard area was enclosed in approximately 1975.

Raw materials used at the site prior to 2001 included copper, brass, steel, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, chromic acid, alkaline solution, freon, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA). Small quantities of nitric acid and sulfuric acid were used in the metal processing, electroplating, and manufacturing operations. Fuels used at the facility included gasoline, natural gas, No. 2 fuel oil, and propane. Oil, 1,1,1-TCA, gasoline, ammonia, argon, nitrogen, propane, and an alkaline solution were stored in tanks outside the facility. The major

manufacturing activities at the facility included machining, brazing, welding, assembly, testing spray painting, parts washing, electroplating, packaging, shipping, and receiving.

Investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater on the Emerson property was completed under the DEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) from 2003 to 2006. Contaminated soil was identified, excavated and shipped off-site for disposal under the VRP. Contaminated groundwater was identified and treated by the injection of zero-valent iron (ZVI) under the VRP. The VDEQ VRP issued a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation on July 9, 2007.

In addition, a release of petroleum from an underground storage tank was remediated under the DEQ's Petroleum Tank Program. Contaminated soils and groundwater impacted by the release of gasoline were remediated by in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) treatment methods.

Additional site investigations are undergoing under the EPA's FLA and under the oversight of the DEQ's OHW to ensure the remediation of the contaminated soils and groundwater are sufficient to meet the RCRA CA environmental performance standards which are protective of human health and the environment.

## **RCRA CA Milestones**

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To date, the following RCRA CA milestones have been completed at this facility:

- On August 26, 2008, a CA site visit was performed by the EPA, the DEQ, the EPA contracted consultant, and representatives of Emerson to assess and evaluate the facility regarding the potential need for CA.
- On September 10, 2008 EPA Region 3 requested that Emerson participate on the RCRA CA program under a Facility Lead Agreement (FLA).
- On October 8, 2008, Emerson accepted invitation to participate in the RCRA CA program under a FLA.
- On September 5, 2008 a VRP document titled "Voluntary Remediation Report, Lot 3, Former Alco Controls", dated 3/1/2007, was received by the Office of Hazardous Waste. The document is being utilized as a RFI Report under RCRA CA.
- On December 10, 2008, a spreadsheet containing soil investigation data was received by the VDEQ via email from Emerson's consultant.
- On January 13, 2009 a Supplemental Groundwater Characterization Workplan, dated 1/9/2009, was received by the Department.

- On February 18, 2009, the Final RCRA CA Site Visit Report was submitted to the EPA and the DEQ, by the EPA contracted consultant.
- On March 19, 2009, the Department provided comments on the RFI Report (VRP Report dated 3/1/2007) and soil investigation data.
- On March 30, 2009, the Department provided comments on the Supplemental Groundwater Characterization Workplan.
- On April 21, 2009 a conference call was conducted to discuss comments on the RFI Report and Supplemental Groundwater Characterization Workplan. Participants included representatives from the VDEQ, Emerson, and Emerson's consultant.
- On June 9, 2009 a revised Supplemental Groundwater Characterization Workplan, dated 6/5/2009, was received by the Department and is undergoing review.

Details and the supporting documentation regarding the above can be obtained by reviewing the files at DEQ's Central Office or by contacting the project managers identified in this fact sheet.

## **Environmental Indicator Status**

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Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set national goals to address high priority RCRA CA facilities by the year 2008 and medium/low facilities by 2020. The facility has been ranked as a low priority facility and is on the RCRA Corrective Action GPRA Baseline List (CA2020 CA Universe List).

The EPA is evaluating two key indicators for each facility: *Current Human Exposures Under Control* and *Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control*.

The current Environmental Indicator Status for this facility is:

- *Human Exposures Controlled Determination:* The DEQ has not yet made a Human Health Environmental Indicators (HHEI) determination for the Facility. Additional information is needed to formally determine if current human exposures are controlled.
- *Release to Groundwater Controlled Determination:* The DEQ has not yet made the Groundwater Environmental Indicators (GWEI) determination for the facility. Additional information is needed to formally determine if groundwater releases are controlled.

## **Contaminants**

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The primary compounds of concern at the site include 1,1,-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) and its associated degradation products. TCA was used at the facility as a degreasing solvent.

In addition, the following gasoline-related constituents have been detected in soil and groundwater on the site at concentrations greater than criteria: methyl-tert-butyl ether (MTBE), benzene, naphthalene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (TMB) and 1,3,5-TMB.

## **Institutional Controls**

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A deed restriction prohibiting any use of groundwater for purposes other than environmental monitoring of the former Emerson property was recorded on the property deed in 2007. Additionally, the Town of Wytheville has a municipal ordinance (Section 16-93) that requires buildings to be connected to the town water system and prohibits the use of private potable individual water wells within the Town of Wytheville.

## **Community Involvement**

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Citizens' questions and concerns may be directed to the contact below. Also, the Administrative Record which contains all documents and information regarding the RCRA CA program for this facility are available for public review at the following location(s):

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Contact: Ryan Kelly  
Phone: (804) 698-4045

## **Government Contacts**

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The EPA Region III has delegated the DEQ as the lead agency for technical and administrative oversight of corrective action (CA) at the Hutchens facility.

Please contact the DEQ project manager listed below for details on this project or the contents of this fact sheet.

### **DEQ Project Manager**

Ryan Kelly  
Environmental Engineer  
Department of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Phone: (804) 698-4045  
Fax: (804) 698-4234  
Email: [ryan.kelly@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:ryan.kelly@deq.virginia.gov)

### **EPA Project Manager**

Mr. Dennis Zielinski – 3LC50  
USEPA - Region 3  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
Phone: (215) 814-3431  
Email: [zielinski.denis@epa.gov](mailto:zielinski.denis@epa.gov)

For more information about EPA's CA program, including Environmental Indicators, please visit EPA's website at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm).

## **Facility Contact**

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Clarence Myers  
Emerson  
8100 West Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis, MO  
Phone: (314) 553-1007  
Email: [Clarence.Myers@emerson.com](mailto:Clarence.Myers@emerson.com)

Davis Sarr  
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## **Fact Sheet Update**

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This fact sheet was prepared July 2009. The next fact sheet update is scheduled for January 2010. Previous fact sheets may be obtained through the listed DEQ contact.