

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **ArcelorMittal Weirton Inc. (Formerly: Mittal Steel USA - Weirton Plant)**

**100 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Weirton, WV 26062-4989  
Congressional District 1  
EPA ID #: WVD000068908  
Last Updated: 12/31/08**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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This steel facility has been in operation since 1909, and covers approximately 1350 acres along the banks of the Ohio River. The facility is situated immediately adjacent to residential and commercial portions of the town of Weirton, West Virginia.

In September 1996, EPA issued a RCRA administrative order directing Weirton Steel Corporation (WSC) to proceed with site investigation and cleanup activities. On or about May 18, 2004, International Steel Group (ISG) acquired the assets of WSC and began operating the facility as ISG Weirton, Incorporated. During April 2005, Mittal Steel acquired ISG and formed Mittal Steel USA for operating facilities in the United States. In October 2007, EPA was notified that the facility's name was changed to ArcelorMittal Weirton, Inc. without a change in ownership. EPA and the Weirton facility are currently working jointly to complete the requirements of the order, which include:

- Conducting a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) of all spills and releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents to provide more in-depth information, and to evaluate remedial technologies that may be effective for cleaning up contaminated areas at the facility;
- Completing Interim Measures (short-term actions) to address contaminated soils, sediments, surface or groundwater that may have been impacted by a release of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents;
- Completing a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to propose final cleanup actions needed for the facility.

Eight interim measures were completed in various areas of the facility between 1997 and 2001 to address soils that were impacted by oil and/or chemical releases and the demolition and clean-up of an old coke plant. In 2002 additional interim measures were completed at the Walnut Street Locomotive Fueling Station portion of the facility to remove oil-stained soils and install secondary containment structures. In February 2006 a summary report was submitted describing the interim measures work completed in phases at the Oil House portion of the facility between 2000 and 2005 to address oil-

impacted soils that were removed from the perimeter of the building. Between April and June 2007, interim measures including the removal of 4500 tons of petroleum stained soil were completed at the former Yard Office and Locomotive Fueling Station part of the facility, and a summary report for this work was submitted in October 2007. More interim measures work is being completed in conjunction with demolition activities currently underway for the old coke plant that occupies the Browns Island portion of the facility. Work plans were submitted and approved in October 2007, and the interim measures work was completed in 2008. Additional interim measures have been identified in the RFI workplan for specific portions of the facility where releases occurred, or stabilization activities can be taken to prevent future releases.

EPA issued approval of the RFI Work Plan in July 1999, and the initial fieldwork for two areas of the site was conducted between 1999 and 2000. Due to the size and complexity of the facility, the RFI is being implemented in a phased manner. The facility has been divided into twelve “corrective action areas” (CAAs) based on similarity of chemicals used and type of manufacturing operations. The first two CAAs that were addressed are the highest priority from an environmental perspective and are located adjacent to receiving surface water bodies (Ohio River and Harmon Creek). Investigation activities were completed in these areas first, and based on the findings and EPA’s review, the facility may proceed with additional investigation or interim measures to stabilize the areas, corrective measures studies and/or implementation, or no further action as appropriate.

A Draft RFI Report for CAA I ( C & E Outfall Area) was submitted to EPA in March 2000, and the Agency provided recommendations for additional data collection activities to the facility in February 2001. Weirton Steel submitted a hazardous waste delisting petition to EPA in March 1999 requesting that remaining sludge contained in the East Lagoon and Sludge Decant Tanks in this part of the facility be rendered non-hazardous. EPA approved the delisting petition and published the proposed delisting rule in the February 26, 2002 Federal Register. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 23, 2002. Additional work required for CAA I was completed between 2004 and 2005, including the cleanout of the East Lagoon and Sludge Decant Tanks implemented pursuant to EPA’s delisting decision, and one additional round of groundwater sampling. A final RFI Report was submitted in December 2005 and EPA issued approval in February 2006, indicating that no further action is required in this part of the site.

A Draft RFI Report for CAA II (Mainland Coke Plant Area) was submitted to EPA in February 2001, and the Agency provided comments and recommendations for limited additional data collection in March 2003. Between 2003 and 2005, EPA and the facility focused their efforts on completing the Environmental Indicators (“EI”) program to demonstrate that human exposures and groundwater releases were under control on a facility-wide basis. EPA and the facility worked together to successfully complete the EI program in 2005. An ongoing facility-wide groundwater monitoring program is being implemented to ensure that the facility maintains a positive EI determination.

In April 2006, a Phase II RFI Work Plan and responses to EPA’s previous comments for CAA II (Mainland Coke Plant Area) were submitted. In addition, a RFI Work Plan for CAA XI (former BOC/Air Products Site) was submitted to EPA in April 2006. EPA issued approval of these documents between July and September 2006, and the fieldwork was completed in late 2006. In June and August 2007 a RFI Report (and Risk Assessment) and Preliminary Investigation Report were submitted for these two areas. Based on EPA’s feedback, revisions and additional information were submitted for both the CAA II RFI Report and the CAA XI Draft RFI Report in 2008. EPA issued a conditional approval letter for the CAA XI Draft RFI Report in December 2008. The

revised CAA II RFI Report and responses to comments are currently in review at EPA. Groundwater monitoring data for the facility-wide well network (EI network) was submitted in February 2008 and July 2008. In addition, assessment reports were submitted to address a few parcels of the facility that had already been transferred to other owners. These reports are currently in review at EPA.

EPA visited the facility with WVDEP representatives in September 2008 to review site conditions and several areas where demolition of unused structures was completed, and to discuss the investigation findings and next steps for the corrective action project.

## **Site Description**

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Steel processing operations were first conducted at the Weirton facility in 1909, and the operation expanded since that time to its present condition. Iron-making, steel-making, hot and cold rolling, tin plating, chrome plating, and galvanizing are some of the primary manufacturing operations that were completed at the facility. Coke and coal tar byproducts were produced at two areas of the site (including an old coke plant on Browns Island) until 1982. Additional activities conducted onsite include a waste oil recovery plant, a hydrochloric acid regeneration plant, gas production facility, slag processing operations, and several wastewater treatment operations.

## **Site Responsibility**

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

## **Contaminants**

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The main contaminants that are likely to be present in the soils, surface water and groundwater are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phenols, petroleum hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, and xylene, solvents, heavy metals and cyanide, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

## **Community Interaction**

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The ArcelorMittal Weirton, Inc. facility borders the Ohio River and is situated immediately adjacent to residential and commercial portions of the City of Weirton, West Virginia. Weirton has approximately 700 employees that reside in Weirton or the surrounding areas. EPA issued a press release in October 1996 to notify the public that Weirton would be required to complete several clean-up activities.

## **Government Contact**

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## **Facility 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](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)