

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Bayer CropScience (Formerly: Aventis Cropsience USA; formerly: Rhone Poulenc Company)

Route 25
Institute, WV 25112
Congressional District 2
EPA ID #: WVD005005509
Last Update: 12/30/2008

Current Progress at the Site

This facility is one of EPA Region III's priority corrective action sites. Extensive progress has been made with the cleanup of the Rhone Poulenc Company Site. This facility is approximately 56 years old and is located in Institute, West Virginia along the Kanawha River.

In January 1991, EPA issued a RCRA corrective action permit to the company to proceed with site cleanup. EPA and the facility are working jointly to complete the requirements of the permit which include:

- Conduct a Verification Investigation (VI) to determine if hazardous waste or contaminants have migrated into the soil or groundwater;
- Conduct a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) of 24 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs);
- Implement interim measures/stabilizations to address known releases or threats;
- Conduct a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to address areas where contaminants pose a threat to human health or the environment.

The facility has implemented an air sparging/soil vapor extraction system to remediate soils and groundwater which are contaminated with volatile organic compounds. The facility also completed a Phase 2 RFI report which addressed the high priority SWMUs. A Phase 3 RFI addressing the low priority SWMU's was completed in February 2001. Based on the results of the Phase 3 investigation, the facility conducted additional sampling activities in September/October 2002 to better characterize sources of contamination. A report detailing the results of that investigation was submitted to EPA in June 2003. The facility received a yes for the Human Exposure Under Control Environmental Indicator in September 2003. Additional field sampling was conducted during December 2004. An April 2005 investigation report presenting the results of that sampling effort was reviewed by EPA. The facility has collected additional data during the last quarter of 2007. The facility is planning on additional sampling to better define source areas. During 2008 the facility completed further characterization at some SWMs and improved some of the interim measures at the site.

Site Description

Located in Institute, West Virginia along the Kanawha River, the Rhone Poulenc Company Site encompasses approximately 350 acres. The facility was built in 1943 by the U.S. government for the production of rubber for World War II. The plant was then bought and utilized by Union Carbide in 1947 until 1986 when it was purchased by Rhone Poulenc for the production of agricultural chemicals.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Rhone Poulenc Company Site are being conducted under the direction of EPA and the WVDEP. The investigation and any necessary cleanup activities are being implemented in accordance with an EPA RCRA corrective action permit.

Contaminants

The main contaminants in the groundwater and soils are benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and tetrachloroethane.

Community Interaction

The Rhone Poulenc Company Site is located in a small industrial complex with several other industries. The nearest community is located within one mile of the facility. Since 1991, the Rhone Poulenc Company and EPA Region III held a public meeting to inform the community about progress of the cleanup.

Institutional Controls

At SWMU 1, the former UCAR landfill, excavation of surficial tar-like oozes was performed on both the east and west side of the SWMU to approximately one foot below ground surface. Approximately 80 tons of excavated material were removed. The area was backfilled with limestone base material and then covered with approximately 4 inches of gravel. Access restrictions have also been implemented for this SWMU.

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

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