

# Dupont Martinsburg - Potomac River Works

**U.S. Route 11 North, Hoffman Road  
Falling Waters, WV 25401  
Congressional District 2  
EPA ID #: WVD041952714  
Last Updated: 12/31/2008**

## Current Progress at the Site

In 1999, EPA issued a RCRA Corrective Action Permit to the DuPont Potomac River Works, which requires the facility to conduct investigations and determine if cleanup activities are necessary. DuPont addressed the first requirement of the permit by submitting the "Release Assessment/RCRA Facility Investigation Workplan" in June 1999. The workplan was designed to evaluate soil and groundwater quality beneath/near several areas on the facility property. EPA approved the workplan and, in October 2000, DuPont initiated implementation of the field program. The investigation included sampling soil and groundwater to determine if releases to the environment had occurred, evaluating the site geology and hydrogeology, and assessing the site surface water characteristics.



View of the former spray irrigation system used to treat wastewater

After DuPont concluded the field work described in the workplan, Dupont submitted a report to EPA in November 2002. The report included results of the field investigation and a proposal for further investigation to address identified data gaps. Dupont completed a second phase of investigation in early 2008 and will submit a comprehensive report of the results for EPA review

In 2008, Dupont also plans to submit a work plan to investigate three additional areas potentially contaminated with explosive materials. Due to relative close proximity to the current manufacturing area, these areas have been deferred due to safety concerns for the workers onsite. Dupont is carefully evaluating techniques to safely conduct the investigations and will submit a work plan for EPA review and approval.

In September 2003 EPA determined that both Environmental Indicators, Ground water Migration Under Control and Current Human Exposures Under Control, had been achieved at this facility.

## **Site Description**

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The DuPont Potomac River Works site is located on U.S. Route 11 in Falling Waters, Berkeley County, West Virginia and is approximately 5 miles northeast of Martinsburg, WV. The 1,350-acre facility is situated along the Potomac River and has manufactured specialty chemical products and various commercial explosives, including dynamite, trinitrotoluene (TNT), and nitroglycerine since 1952. The site suspended all explosive manufacturing operations in 1994.

Today, about 100 employees at the Potomac River Works site manufacture and assemble nonexplosive roof bolt grouting systems called Fasloc®, used in mining and construction. In September 2005 Dupont sold the Fasloc business to a new entity, Fasloc, Inc., which now leases about 60 acres of the production area from Dupont. Dupont no longer conducts manufacturing activities at this facility, but retains ownership of the property and responsibility for the corrective action.

The area surrounding the site contains a mix of industrial, agricultural, and residential developments. Prior to DuPont's ownership, the area was primarily woodlands or farmlands owned by various private landowners.

## **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 West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

## **Contaminants**

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The main constituents found in the site's soil and groundwater include nitrates, a few volatile organic compounds such as methylene chloride, and 1,2-Dichloroethane and lead. Some areas where spills occurred, are potentially contaminated with explosive compounds such as nitroglycerin.

## **Community Interaction**

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The DuPont Potomac River Works maintains an open dialog with the local community through frequent meetings and informational mailings.

## **Institutional Controls**

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Deed notices are recorded within the Berkeley County Land Records (Deed 485/251) identifying 18 areas on site which managed hazardous materials.

## Government Contacts

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

## Facility Contact

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