

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc Washington Works Facility

**Dupont Road
Washington, WV 26101
Congressional District 1
EPA ID #: WVD045875291
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Current Progress at the Site

In 1989, EPA issued to DuPont Washington Works the Corrective Action portion of their site RCRA Permit to conduct investigations and determine if corrective measures were necessary for on-site solid waste management units (SWMUs).

Under EPA direction, DuPont completed a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). The RFI is a follow-up investigation to the Verification Investigation (VI), which was conducted in 1992 to evaluate whether soil and groundwater quality was impacted by five Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) located on facility property. The VI determined that four SWMUs may have released hazardous constituents to soil and/or groundwater. The RFI is designed to expand on the VI work by further investigating soil and groundwater quality beneath the four SWMU locations, and determine if corrective measures are necessary. The RFI report was submitted to EPA in June 1999. Because of extensive research that is being conducted on one of the on-site contaminants, the RFI Report could not be readily approved. However, the RFI was accepted as final in February 2006.

DuPont developed a sitewide groundwater flow model in order to fully characterize the site groundwater system's flow directions, flow rates, and discharge locations. This holistic approach to groundwater investigation is being conducted because the site currently operates a large system of production wells, which supply water to the manufacturing processes. Previous evaluations of the groundwater system have indicated that ongoing production well pumping appears to control aquifer gradients. The groundwater modeling work basically confirmed these historical evaluations. The new groundwater model provided a more accurate depiction of groundwater contours under pumping conditions.

In April 1991, DuPont discovered a groundwater seep containing elevated levels of methylene chloride at the toe of the west end of the Riverbank Landfill SWMU. DuPont soon thereafter installed a french drain type seepage collection system to capture this water and prevent further migration. The water collected in this system is passed through an activated carbon treatment system and then discharged to the Ohio River via an NPDES permitted outfall.

DuPont received a yes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control Environmental Indicator in September 2003. The Groundwater Environmental Indicator was approved in April 2004.

DuPont is presently preparing the River Bank Landfill to receive a cap as part of an interim measure to reduce infiltration into the landfill.

DuPont is also preparing a Corrective Measures Study for the facility. Based on the results of that study a determination will be made regarding the need for additional corrective action.

Site Description

The DuPont Washington Works is located in Washington, West Virginia, approximately 7 miles southwest of Parkersburg, W.V. The 1,200-acre site is situated along the Ohio River and has manufactured various polymer products since 1948. Today, DuPont employs 2,600 people at the Washington Works site. The facility has 14 operating and service divisions that span a manufacturing area nearly 1 mile in length. The Washington Works is located in an industrial area, which includes a General Electric Plastics plant located adjacent to the site's western boundary.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 and the WVDEP.

Contaminants

Volatile organic compounds are the main constituents found in the site's soil and groundwater. These compounds primarily consist of methylene chloride, and trace levels of tetrachloroethene, and 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane. In addition, a surfactant dispersing agent, ammonium perfluoro-octanoate, has also been detected at the site.

Community Interaction

Responsible Care Program

As part of its activities as a member of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, DuPont Washington Works has organized a Community Responsible Care Team to address citizen's concerns about the site safety, health and environmental performance and review related topics. The team is composed of citizens from neighboring communities and plant personnel. Programs like the RFI are typically reviewed in the team's quarterly meetings.

Institutional Controls

Access to the facility is controlled by a perimeter fence. To enter the site one must pass through a check point that is manned by security guards.

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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