

Arrowhead Associates

EPA Region 3

Virginia

Westmoreland County

Near Montross

EPA ID# VAD042916361

1st Congressional District

Last Update: July

2002

Other Names:

Scovill Corporation

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a public document to change the cleanup plan for contaminated soil in September 1998. This document, called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), left intact part of the original cleanup method selected in the September 29, 1991 Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD called for treating contamination on site and installing a pump and treat system to cleanup the groundwater. The ESD replaced the pump and treat elements of the remedy with a permeable reactive subsurface barriers system (PRSB). The main advantage of the new plan is the ability to treat the groundwater while it remains below ground rather than pumping the water for above ground treatment. The Scovill Corp., the potentially responsible party (PRP), proposed to construct a impermeable surface cap as part of the PRSB System to reduce the amount of groundwater that will be treated. The proposed cap will cover approximately four and one half acres. On September 29, 2001, EPA signed a ROD Amendment, approving the PRSB/Cap system to

treat ground water. The PRP began constructing the PRSB/Cap System on February 4, 2002. The PRP is operating a vapor extraction system (SVE) , which is cleaning up contaminated soil located under the manufacturing building. EPA and The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) are monitoring the PRP's cleanup efforts.

Site Description

The Arrowhead Associates/Scovill Corp. site is located on 30 acres in a rural area in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The Scovill Corp. electroplated cosmetic cases from 1966 to 1972, when Arrowhead, Inc. of Delaware acquired the business and its assets. Arrowhead continued the electroplating operations until 1979. From 1979 to 1981, Arrowhead also filled the cases with cosmetics. From 1981 to the present, A.R. Winarick has assembled and filled cases with cosmetics, and beginning in the early 1980s to the present, Mattatuck Manufacturing has fabricated automobile wire harnesses at the site. Plating wastes were treated in a surface impoundment system and discharged to Scates Branch under a permit issued through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. After the plating operations ended in 1979, process equipment and materials were abandoned at the site. An estimated 1,100 people obtain drinking water from shallow private wells within three miles of the site. A coastal wetland is about one mile from the site, and local surface water is used for recreational activities. High levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), chemical components of solvents and degreasers, in the groundwater at the site pose a significant threat. The contamination plume extends off site and into Scates Branch and the South Fork Scates Branch where groundwater discharges to the stream. Surface soil sampling did not indicate a widespread presence of contamination; VOCs, metals, and cyanide were found in a few locations. In subsurface soil, high levels of VOCs were found in two former drum storage areas and in one of the former pond areas. High levels of heavy metals were detected in the area on the former disposal ponds.

Site Responsibility


Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments, and parties potentially responsible for site contamination.

NPL Listing History

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long-term remedial action on June 24, 1988. This site was formally added to the list February 21, 1990, making it eligible for federal cleanup.

Threats and Contaminants

High levels of VOCs in the groundwater at the site pose a significant threat. The contamination plume extends off site and into Scates Branch and the South Fork Scates Branch where groundwater discharges to the stream. Surface soil sampling did not indicate a widespread presence of contamination; VOCs, metals, and cyanide were found in a few locations. In subsurface soil, high levels of VOCs were found in two former drum storage areas and in one of the former pond areas. High levels of heavy metals were detected in the area of the former disposal ponds.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

In 1986, EPA entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) that required Scovill Corp. to conduct a two-phase removal action. Scovill removed wastes and contaminated materials from the site including 300 drums containing benzene, paints, lacquers, thinners, metal plating wastes, cyanide, residual process wastes, damaged tanks, interior piping, and deteriorated concrete inside the manufacturing building. In 1988, approximately 395 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the drum disposal area and disposed off site. Contaminated wastewater from the six disposal lagoons was treated and discharged to Scates Branch. Also, soils and sludges from the lagoons were removed and disposed of off site. In 1990, the lagoons were filled, graded, and revegetated, and erosion control measures were installed. A.R. Winarick, the former owner of the building, ceased filling cosmetic cases at the site in 1992. Winarick left approximately 450 drums and other containers of paints, lacquers,

thinners, benzene, and lipstick in the building. EPA initiated a removal action in 1997 to remove the materials that were left by A.R. Winarick. In January 1997, Scovill began the Remedial Design (RD) for the groundwater pump and treatment system and in-situ soil vapor extraction system. Scovill Corp. has proposed that a PRSB be used to treat the contaminated groundwater. On September 19, 1998, EPA approved an ESD for the subsurface barriers. On September 28, 2001, EPA signed a ROD Amendment, approving the PRSB/Cap System to treat contaminated ground water. The construction of the PRSB/Cap System began on February 4, 2002. The PRP is planning to have the construction of the system completed by the end of September 2002. The PRP continues to operate the SVE system, which is removing VOCs from contaminated soils at the site.

Contacts

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Assistant County Administrator

Westmoreland County

Social Services Building

Peachgrove Lane

Montross, VA 22520

U.S. EPA Region III
6th Floor Docket Room
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-814-3157

Please call for an appointment.