

Hercules, Inc. Aqualon Division

1111 Hercules Road
Hopewell, VA 23860
Congressional District 4
EPA ID #: VAD003121928
Site Property Area: 390 Acres
Last Updated: 11/18/2011

Current Progress at the Site

Hercules is preparing a Final RCRA Facility Investigation Report, which will summarize the findings of the investigations conducted at the site. The Report is due to EPA in late 2011.

Site Description

The Hercules Aqualon site occupies a 390-acre parcel of land in Hopewell, VA and employs about 400 local residents. Hercules purchased the property in 1926 but the site has been used for industrial purposes since 1912 under various owners/operators. The Hercules Hopewell Plant is one of the largest cellulose derivative production facilities in the world. All of the finished products are based on cellulose, a raw material that comes from trees or cotton. The cellulose is swollen with sodium hydroxide (caustic) and reacted with one or more chemicals, depending on the product being manufactured. The resulting product is then purified, dried, and packaged.

Site Responsibility

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

Contaminants

Several organic and inorganic contaminants have been detected in ground water at the site. The contaminants of most concern include diethyl ether, tert butyl alcohol, 1,4-dioxane, and 2-butoxyethanol. Soil investigations have shown several organic and inorganic contaminants at several solid waste management units.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

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