

Pfizer (legacy Wyeth/AH Robins) Consumer Healthcare

2848 Darbytown Road
Richmond, Virginia 23231-5404
Congressional District 3
EPA ID#: VAD188141626
Site Property Area: 305.7 acres
Last Updated: October 3, 2011

Government Contact

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Status

Environmental information is being gathered to determine whether further investigation is warranted and whether the environmental indicators are met. A remedy decision is expected within two years.

Background

Pfizer, through legacy Wyeth, entered the USEPA's Region III Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Facility Lead Program in September 2006 to meet RCRA Corrective Action obligations associated with the former operation of a hazardous waste storage area. Previously, the Facility was enrolled in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) due to suspected releases of various constituents from the Former Plant A and its associated wastewater treatment plant. Pfizer expects to finalize the sale of the Facility to Fareva in October 2011. Current operations will continue under Fareva, and Pfizer will continue to oversee the RCRA Corrective Action.

The property is comprised of 305.7 acres and is located on the southeast side of Richmond. Two primary buildings currently are located on site: Plant B produces and/or packages over-the-counter medications, and Building 2300 operates as a warehouse and sample management laboratory. Past industrial operations at the property include the manufacture of pet pesticide products (flea collars, etc.) and of over-the-counter medicinal products (as well as a quality control/quality assurance laboratory) at the Former Plant A, which was constructed in 1975 and demolished in 2001. A distribution center also operated at the property. A farm is located on the eastern portion of the property. The land bordering the property is largely wooded, and the surrounding area is zoned mostly for industrial or agricultural use, with some residential property in the vicinity (**Figure 1**).

Cleanup History

It was discovered in 1992 that a vent pipe on the west wall of the Former Plant A released flea dip product onto the ground. Impacted soil was subsequently excavated and disposed of off-site in two phases that same year. The first phase involved an excavation three feet in depth that extended along the building wall out approximately eight feet from the wall. The second phase involved excavation of soil along the building wall. The excavated area was approximately 10 by 35 feet to a depth of 10 to 12 feet. Following soil excavation, a nearby 10,000 gallon underground storage tank was removed, and the area was backfilled, leveled, and compacted.

The plant's sewer lines were excavated and removed in 2001 and stained soil in the immediate vicinity of the former waste water treatment plant was encountered. Analytical results from soil samples indicated concentrations below risk screening values, but the stained soil was excavated and removed as a precautionary measure.

Contaminants and Risks

During the early 1990s, a break in the process sewer at the Plant A wastewater treatment plant was discovered and repaired, but no environmental investigations were completed. Soil impacts were noted in this area during the demolition of Plant A in 2001. Impacted soil was excavated, and groundwater sampling identified the primary constituent of concern (“COC”) in groundwater as chloroform, with up to 470 ug/l of chloroform detected. Secondary COCs in groundwater are chloroethenes, including tetrachloroethene (PCE), and trichloroethene (TCE). TCE has been detected at a concentration as high as 14 ug/L. Groundwater monitoring wells have been installed to observe constituent concentration trends and the extent of groundwater impact. A long-term monitoring program is currently in place.

During the demolition activities in 2001, a release of pesticides to soil was encountered. Extensive soil investigations determined the remaining concentrations of pesticides were low and did not present a risk for direct contact exposure. Additional investigations of soil, groundwater and sediment have been initiated across the site. Low levels of organic constituents have been detected in surface and subsurface soils and sediment. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon compounds, commonly referred to as PAHs, have been detected in soil, groundwater, and sediment on the property in a localized area northeast of the Building 2300.

A sub-slab vapor investigation was completed in Building 2300 in September 2010, and preliminary results indicate no current risks to workers in the building.

Four solid waste management units (SWMUs) and eight areas of concern (AOCs) have been identified on the site. One of the SWMUs was eliminated as it was determined to have been incorrectly identified. EPA has provided tentative no further action, pending public review, for two SWMUs and four AOCs as a result of work completed under RCRA corrective action. Additionally, the groundwater component of one SWMU and two AOCs has been transferred and consolidated to one AOC, effectively leaving one SWMU and three AOCs open.

Institutional Controls

The need for institutional controls, such as deed restrictions, will be evaluated in the corrective action decision making process. Institutional controls to address groundwater contamination are anticipated.

Independent of EPA, the sales agreement between Pfizer and Fareva includes restrictions that prohibit digging at some locations at the Facility. EPA will consider these restrictions among the institutional controls in the context of identifying a remedy for the site.

Documents and Reports

Some of the key documents of interest are available below:

July 2006: Voluntary Remediation Report, Former Plant A Site

April 2009: Draft RCRA Facility Investigation Summary

August 2010: Summary of Field Investigations

Message to EPA web site coordinator: all three documents are available electronically on the L share drive @ L:\Share\dschott\Darbytown Road - Pfizer-Wyeth-AH Robins

Photos, Maps and Diagrams



Figure 1. Pfizer Facility and Surrounding Area. (September 2007)

Reuse Information

The property is under agreement of sale to Fareva, a European-based contract manufacturing company. Fareva plans to continue operating the consumer health products facility and invest \$42 million. Fareva has agreed to retain the 500 employees at the facility and plans to hire an additional 90 employees over the next five years, under a six year production contract with Pfizer. The sale is expected to close in October 2011. Under agreement of the sale, Pfizer will retain responsibility for corrective action.

Questions

EPA is dedicated to providing you with timely and accurate information about our work at this site. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact EPA Project Manager Diane Schott at 215-814-3430.