
FACT SHEET

EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

American Felt & Filter Company Site



Town of New Windsor / Orange County / Site No. 3-36-036 / April 2008

**Prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this notice (a.k.a. Explanation of Significant Difference) is to document a change in the selected remedy for the American Felt & Filter Company site (the Site), which is located at 361 Walsh Avenue in the Town of New Windsor, in Orange County. The site is on approximately eight acres along the south bank of the Quassaick Creek, less than one mile west of the Hudson River. See the attached Figure 1.

Manufacture of felt products has been the primary operation at the Site since the late 1800's when the American Felt Company began manufacturing. The Company changed ownership several times over the years but its original name (American Felt Company) was retained until 1978. The name has since been changed to The American Felt and Filter Company.

The products currently manufactured at the Site include felt fabrics and felts that are impregnated with chemicals for various products and mechanical uses. Felts are also dyed at the Site with a variety of organic and synthetic dyes. Trichloroethane (TCA), a chlorinated hydrocarbon widely used as an industrial solvent, was utilized at the Site. The use of TCA was discontinued in the early 1990's.

American Felt and Filter Company (AFFC), the remedial party, signed an Order on Consent (legal agreement) with the NYSDEC on March 31, 1998. Pursuant to the order, a Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from previous activities at the Site. The RI included sampling of soil, groundwater, bedrock groundwater, surface water, soil vapor and indoor air. The primary contaminant of concern, TCA, was found in the soil and groundwater in the north central portion of the Site, immediately south of Quassaick Creek.

Based on the RI and after public review, the NYSDEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in March 2004. The ROD included a Dual Phase Extraction (DPE) system to address soil and groundwater contamination under a portion of the mill building. The ROD also required installation of several bedrock groundwater monitoring wells, monitoring of groundwater and soil vapor, development of a soil management plan, and implementation of institutional and engineering controls.

2.0 CURRENT STATUS

The AFFC has completed the installation of three bedrock monitoring wells on the eastern perimeter of the Site and baseline soil gas sampling. AFFC has also demolished the northwest corner of the main building at the Site (see Figure 2), and has proposed to modify the remedy to excavate the contaminated soil in the vicinity of the demolished footprint to meet Soil Cleanup Objectives for groundwater protection.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

The following describes the significant difference to the remedy, compared to the remedy selected in the March 2004 ROD:

Scope: Instead of a DPE system, the remedial party will be required to excavate, and dispose of offsite, the contaminated soil (see cross-hatched area at northwest corner of main building in Figure 2) until the Protection of Groundwater standard of 0.68 parts per million for TCA is met. All other elements of the 2004 ROD-selected remedy will remain the same.

Performance: Excavation of contaminated soils is equally or more effective at protecting of human health and the environment as compared to the DPE system. Excavation of contaminated soil could be completed in a few months, while the DPE system would require a year or more to remove the source of groundwater contamination.

Cost: The cost of the excavation and appropriate disposal of contaminated soil, estimated at \$300,000, is significantly less than the projected cost for the installation, operation and maintenance of the DPE system, estimated at \$415,000.

The Explanation of Significant Difference will become part of the Administrative Record for this Site. The information in this fact sheet is a summary of what can be found in greater detail in documents such as the March 2004 ROD and the March 20, 2008 Explanation of Significant Difference that have been placed in the following repositories:

Newburgh Free Library
124 Grand Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
Attn.: Reference Librarian
Phone: (845)561-1985

Office of the Clerk
Town of New Windsor
555 Union Avenue
New Windsor, NY 12553
Attn.: Deborah Green
Phone: (845)563-4611

NYSDEC- Region 3 Headquarters
Division of Environmental Remediation
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1620
Attn.: Michael Knipfing
Phone: (845)256-3154

Although this is not a request for comments, interested persons are invited to contact the Department's Project Manager for this Site to obtain more information or have questions answered.

4.0 FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information you may contact either of the following:

Project Information:

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21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561-1620
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