



Welcome to our first issue

This is the first issue of our revamped Avtex Fibers Superfund Site newsletter, which will be published regularly to keep you informed on progress at the site.

Our goal is to make sure you—the stakeholders and owners of the 500-acre site—are kept up to date on cleanup and redevelopment.

If you have suggestions for future articles, comments on the newsletter or questions about the Avtex site, please contact FMC Site Manager Doug Bement at 540-635-3341.

Visit www.avtexfibers.com

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Demolition funding moves forward \$11 million would keep cleanup, redevelopment on track

Funding to complete demolition work at the Avtex site appears well on its way to congressional approval. And that means within the near future, all of the 162-acre planned Eco-Business Park site will be cleared to allow for redevelopment.

The final \$11 million needed to complete the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project to clear the business park acres has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and is now pending approval in the Senate.

"I'll be excited to see the



View of planned Avtex business park area from south, May 2003.

final day but it's moving along," Rep. Frank Wolf, R-10th, told a local reporter during a July 29 visit to the site. "We have the

sources now, we have the money, they have the team in place so it's going to get done."

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Panel sets sights on future park, soccer

"Our goal is to meld that location back into the Front Royal/Warren County community in as healthy a way as possible. It's a big job."

That's how Ray Grimm, chairman of the Avtex Redevelopment Advisory Committee, described the panel's vision for the future of the Avtex site.

Created last year by the Front Royal Town Council and Warren County Board of Supervisors, the 12-member citizens committee is working on making

sure the community's plan for a Conservancy Park, soccer complex and other facilities at the site becomes a reality.

"There's great potential, enormous potential," Grimm said. "Location, location, location – it's an excellent property."

The panel's first priority has been the soccer complex, which has been slowed by lack of funding. Grimm said the committee is looking at whether to pursue creating five usable fields quickly rather than a

single state-of-the-art but expensive field.

Future development and ownership of the planned Conservancy Park and issues surrounding Front Royal's planned new bypass road along the site border are also front-burner topics for the committee, he said. This includes considering local fund raising for construction of the park.

The committee has also taken over responsibility for the Multi-Stakeholders Group,

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EPA has next cleanup plan in the works

In 1999, EPA and DEQ issued a plan for the cleanup of former waste disposal basins in the western half of the site. In 2001, FMC began work to close six sulfate basins, four fly ash basins, a large fly ash stockpile and other basins at the site's wastewater treatment plant. All activities are being conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations.

The sulfate basins contain sludge generated when metal-bearing wastewater from the production process was treated with lime in the site's wastewater treatment plant. Fly ash is the residue that results from coal combustion. At Avtex, the fly ash generated by the on-site power plant was disposed of in four fly ash basins and one large stockpile.

FMC has closed two sulfate basins, including the 20-acre Sulfate Basin 5 at the southern end of the site, and all four fly ash basins.

EPA recently presented the public with its proposal to address additional areas of the site. The proposal includes plant area soils, a solid waste landfill, and viscose basins 1 through 8. Batches of viscose that did not meet specifications were placed in waste disposal basins.

EPA's proposal calls for the landfill and viscose basins 1 through 8 to be closed in place in accordance with the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations. In addition, EPA proposes excavating impacted plant area soils and either using them on site or disposing of them off site, as appropriate. Once EPA issues its final plan for these areas, FMC and EPA will develop an approach and a schedule to conduct the work.

FMC has been conducting a comprehensive investigation to define the extent of impacted groundwater. The ultimate objective of the investiga-

tion is to develop alternatives to address impacted groundwater and the main known source of impact – viscose basins 9 through 11.

Since 1993, FMC has installed monitoring wells on and around the site and has performed extensive groundwater sampling. In 2000, water samples were collected from 96 monitoring wells and were sent to an accredited environmental testing laboratory for analysis. The results confirmed that the impacted groundwater zone was still present and is largely in the same location as in prior years.

The process of collecting and evaluating data on the groundwater is still ongoing. These activities include drilling and sampling several deep wells to test groundwater quality. The results, which are shared with EPA, will help determine next steps. ~

Funding

Continued from page 1

Wolf has pushed through legislation calling for the remaining funding in the House and was also key, along with U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., in getting earlier congressional funding for the project.

While not part of the Superfund-required cleanup, the demolition of buildings is being coordinated with efforts to investigate and clean up soils at the site.

About 17 acres of contaminated former manufacturing buildings and the rayon plant's smokestack were demolished by the EPA in 1997-1999 and an additional 15 acres will be complete in 2003. Over 200,000 tons of debris, waste material and contaminated soils have been removed from the site.

Money from the earlier appropriations was due to run out this year, putting a halt to the demolition and

asbestos cleanup efforts being spearheaded by the Army Corps.

The new funding will keep that project on target and will mean the site will be completely cleared of deteriorating buildings within 2-2.5 years, said Army Corps Project Manager Al Opstal.

"It looks great to me as far as continuing the project," Opstal said. "Now we've got everything going for us."

About 60% of the demolition project has been completed to date, according to Opstal.

The massive, brick Avtex Powerhouse, the former rayon plant's on-site power generating facility, is by far the largest of the remaining demolition projects.

By October, the Army Corps expects to have completed the asbestos cleanup in three sections of build-

ings. Debris is being sorted to separate materials that can be recycled and the remainder is being crushed to be used as road bed materials on the site, Opstal said. Hazardous materials are being trucked to approved, special landfills off site. ~

ARAC

Continued from page 1

which ensures community involvement in decisions about the site, and has set an Oct. 29 date for its next meeting.

The panel's job is a complex one with work being coordinated with a number of different groups, but Grimm said he's optimistic about the future of the site.

"It moves slowly, but it is moving," he said. "Every day there's more progress being made." ~

EDA renovation of historic building complete

The “gateway” to the future Avtex eco-business park is now open with the completion of a three-year renovation of the former administration building at the site.

The Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority completed work on the historic building, which dates to 1938, in April. The EDA moved its offices into the building on May 1.

“We continue to move forward with this project,” said EDA Chairman Ron Mabry. “In partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, DEQ and FMC, old manufacturing buildings are coming down, land is being cleaned and readied for delisting from Superfund, and now we have visible and viable proof of the

renewal that is taking place at this site—the reuse of the administration building.”

Environmentally-sensitive “green” technologies were used in the rehabilitation and the building is expected to be a model for the development of the remainder of the planned 162-acre business park. That park is part of the vision for reuse of the site created by local citizens in 2000.

The renovation also followed the requirements of the Virginia Department of Historic Preservation.

“Now we have visible and viable proof of the renewal that is taking place at this site—the reuse of the administration building.”

EDA Chairman Ron Mabry

Original oak paneling and parquet flooring were refinished, light fixtures cleaned and reinstalled and other historic features repaired.

Four leasable offices totaling 11,050 square feet are also completed in the building’s two wings. ~

Basin sites cleaned, soon ready for parkland

Since 2001, FMC has been implementing a plan created by EPA and DEQ to close several waste disposal basins on the western half of the site.

The basin closures are conducted in accordance with state and federal regulations and will minimize environmental risk to plants, animals and humans by preventing contact with the basin wastes and movement of basin materials during flooding or wind erosion.

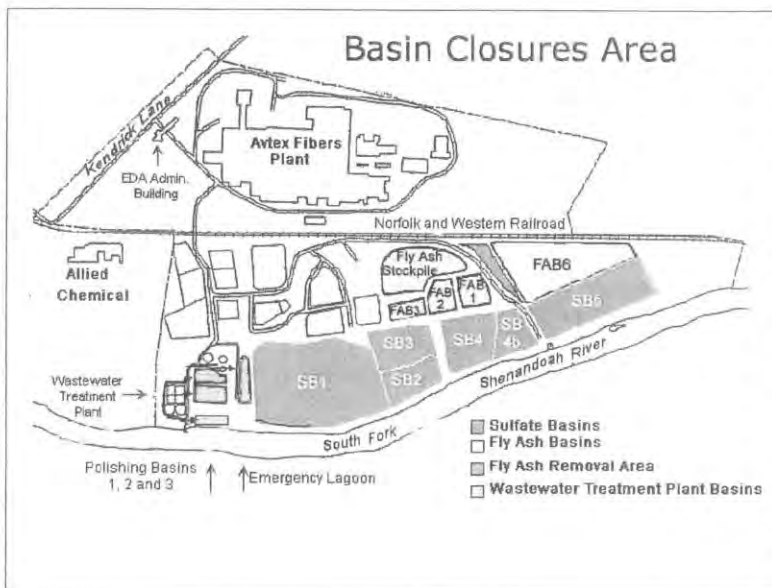
FMC has completed closure of two sulfate basins, including the 17-acre Sulfate Basin 5 at the southern end of the site and four fly ash basins. Grading of basin 5 and removal of soil

dikes along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River has created a storm water management area and

Materials from two sulfate basins have been incorporated into a third sulfate basin, which is in the process of being closed in accordance with state and federal guidelines. All sulfate basins will be filled using material from the fly ash stockpile and then covered with an impermeable cap, followed by two feet of cover soil. The basins will then be planted with native grasses that will prevent erosion and create a meadow habitat called for in the plans for the Conservancy Park.

In spring 2002, native grasses and trees were planted at the sites of five remediated basins.

Local schoolchildren and officials participated in a ceremonial tree planting to mark the event. ~



a wetlands for the planned Conservancy Park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 29

Multi-Stakeholders Group Meeting

PLACE: Warren County Government Center
220 N. Commerce Avenue
Front Royal VA 22630
TIME: 6 p.m.—9 p.m.

This meeting is sponsored by the Avtex Redevelopment Advisory Committee, a citizens' panel authorized to oversee community involvement in the site. The committee was appointed by the Front Royal Town Council and Warren County Board of Supervisors to make recommendations on the Avtex redevelopment.

Come and get to know the ARAC members, hear about progress at the site, the latest cleanup plan and efforts to preserve the history of the site.

AVTEX

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