

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **Cabot Performance Materials**

**377 Beaver Run Road  
Revere, PA 18953  
Congressional District 8  
EPA ID #: PAD014512388  
Last Updated: 12/17/2008**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

The fire pond closure that was scheduled for the spring of 2008 was postponed and is being reevaluated to determine if full closure of the pond is warranted. The two remaining buildings located on the site (office building and garage) are being considered for demolition.

In 2006 all uranium-containing slag was removed and disposed of offsite. Wetlands restoration and erosion and sediment control measures have been implemented in accordance with the site restoration plan approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Permits to drill exploratory natural gas wells were submitted by Arbor Resources, L.L.C. to PADEP in fall 2007. These wells will be sited in areas that were not impacted by Cabot's prior activities. EPA and PADEP will ensure that these exploratory activities do not negatively impact the Corrective Action obligations of the site.

## **Site Description**

The Cabot Performance Materials site (formerly Penn Rare Metals) is located approximately 0.75 miles southeast of the unincorporated village of Revere at 377 Beaver Run Road in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The facility ceased all production activities in February 2002.

The facility property includes seven acres of land on the east side of Beaver Run Road and another 95 acres on the west side of the road where the plant buildings were located. The facility property is bordered by Rapp Creek on the west, State Game Lands on the northeast, and by wooded land, open fields, and a few private residences along Beaver Run Road to the east and southeast.

The site was originated in 1959 with the relocation of Penn Rare Metals from Horsham, Pennsylvania. Penn Rare Metals practiced beryllium extraction on 5 acres out of 100 acres of land. According to the Preliminary Assessment of Penn Rare Metals dated August 1986, the site was storing hazardous waste for less than 90 days at a time, and consequently, the facility was "only a generator of hazardous waste." Also for a few years a pilot plant, Echo Chemical Company, was reclaiming copper from etching wastes of the electronics industry on the site. The founder of Echo Chemical Company abandoned the plant in 1984, due to financial difficulties. Echo Chemical Company was an open-air facility with a roof and no walls. There were tanks situated on a 50x50 foot concrete pad located west of the office building. The concrete pad was lately used by Cabot for storing wood pallets and for parking vehicles. Cabot's Revere, PA plant activities were sealed in February, 2002. The latest activities at the plant included metal refinery operations resulting in the production of cesium, rubidium, and

germanium salts, as well as germanium oxides, germanium tetrachloride, tellurium metals, and niobium alloys. Their products also included ferro-columbium and nickel-columbium. These alloying materials are used in production alloy steels of various grades suitable for use in jet engines.

All wastes at the facility were residual non-hazardous wastes. Only the pH level of the acid wastes was monitored according to the PADEP inspection report of October 1992. Non-contact cooling water used for the germanium tetrachloride and cesium production was discharged to a fire pond and then to Rapp Creek through an NPDES-permitted discharge.

In the 1960s some ore for the plant was shipped in from Brazil. That ore had a high concentration of uranium. As a result, a uranium-contaminated sludge was stored in a few areas at the facility under the PADEP, Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) supervision. According to the dose assessment at the site, dated November 1997 and March 2001, remediation of the uranium-containing slag at the site was not necessary. No decommissioning activities were required to allow license termination under current (2001) NRC criteria. On September 5, 2001 the site was removed from the NRC License. The NRC authorized "release of land for unrestricted use" at the Cabot, Revere site.

Surface water discharges to the northwest into a drainage ditch that drains into Rapp Creek. Approximately 2 miles south of the site, Rapp Creek flows into Tinicum Creek. Rapp Creek and Tinicum Creek are protected under Pennsylvania Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards for the maintenance and/or propagation of fish species. A groundwater and surface water investigation in 1986 included sampling of two drinking water wells, sampling of Rapp Creek (upstream and downstream from the plant), and collection of samples from 8 private wells within 1500 feet of the plant. No contaminants were detected in any of these samples.

In February 2002 all plant activities were sealed and equipment was sold and removed from the Cabot site. All existing buildings were cleaned. All wastes, residual wastes, sludges and contaminated soils were cleaned and shipped offsite. Except for an office building and garage, in 2004 all buildings and their foundations were demolished and removed.

## **Site Responsibility**

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

## **Institutional Controls**

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No institutional controls are necessary at this time.

## **Government Contact**

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## **Facility Contact**

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