

Groveton Paper Mill Parcels
19 Main Street
and
10-12 Mechanic Street
Village of Groveton
Town of Northumberland



DES Site Number: 200801066

ONESTOP Master Id.: 62881

Date of update: February 7, 2012

Description: This site is occupied by a vacant paper mill that is comprised of numerous buildings. The mill was in operation from 1891 until 2006. The last occupants of the mill complex were Wausau Papers of NH, Inc. and Groveton Paperboard, Inc. The mill has been vacant since approximately 2006. The mill parcels are currently owned by Groveton Paperboard, Inc. and Groveton Acquisition, LLC.

Potential Environmental Concerns: Potential concerns associated with this property include potential releases of petroleum products from storage tanks, potential releases of chemicals related to the paper making industry, the likely presence of hazardous building materials (namely asbestos and lead paint) that must be considered as part of renovation

plans for the building, and the potential presence of PCBs associated with transformers, electrical, equipment, and hydraulic fluids.

Previous Work: A Brownfields Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed by Nobis Engineering, Inc. for North Country Council, Inc. in March 2009. This work was funded with an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant awarded to North Country Council, Inc.

NHDES contracted Nobis Engineering, Inc. to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of the site. The Phase II Environmental Site Assessment involved the collection and analysis of soil samples and groundwater samples to assess surface and subsurface environmental conditions at the site. Select building materials were also sampled to assess the presence or absence of PCBs in areas of stained concrete flooring and/or specific areas where PCB releases may have occurred. The Phase II Assessment work was started in January 2010 and a report was submitted on June 10, 2010.

Based on the results of the Phase II Assessment, NHDES authorized Nobis to complete a supplemental assessment to address data gaps identified in the Phase II Assessment Report. A Supplemental Assessment Report was submitted on March 16, 2010.

Assessment work to date has identified the following:

- Minor groundwater contamination associated with a black liquor release and slight exceedance of the groundwater standard for trichloroethene in one groundwater monitoring well. These groundwater impacts do not warrant active remedial actions and can be addressed via long-term groundwater monitoring under a Groundwater Management Permit.
- Presence of soils containing polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons at concentrations slightly above the corresponding Soil Remediation Standards. However, these PAH compounds are present solely due to the presence of wood ash and coal ash and are therefore exempt from NHDES regulation as they are not the result of a release. In such cases, NHDES recommends excavation and proper off-site disposal of the impacted soils or consolidation of the impacted soils and on-site management of the direct contact risk via soil or asphalt capping and the recordation of a Notice of Activity and Use Restriction.
- Presence of hazardous building materials (i.e. asbestos, PCB-paint, lead-paint, etc.) throughout the mill complex which will require abatement prior to any renovations or demolition of the site buildings.
- Presence of PCB in the concrete slab floor at stained areas beneath some machinery. To date, PCB results indicate concentrations above 1 mg/kg but less than 10 mg/kg. More assessment of the extent of the PCB impacts is necessary prior to renovation or demolition of the mill structures. The nature and extent of

the supplemental assessment would be a direct function of the planned reuse of the buildings

- Presence of PCB-containing soil beneath the clarifiers. The presence of PCBs in the soils is interpreted to likely be the result of PCB-containing paint chips

Copies of all available Brownfields reports for this site can be accessed from NHDES' ONESTOP Database at: <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/BasicSearch.aspx>.

Current Work: No work is currently underway or anticipated in 2012.

Scheduled Public Events: There are no public meetings currently scheduled for this site.

Cleanup Planning: Cleanup planning documents have not yet been prepared for this site and would be a direct function of the planned site reuse.

Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act: NHDES submitted Project Review Requests to the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources – Division of Historical Resources (DHR) prior to undertaking the Phase II Site Assessment. DHR issued a determination of “No Potential to Cause Effects” on January 11, 2010.

Funding: The assessment work completed jointly by NHDES and NCC was funded via:

- Federal Economic Development Agency Grant to NCC
- EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant – NCC
- EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant – NHDES
- EPA State and Tribal Response Program Grant – NHDES
- NHDES Cost Recovery Fund