



Monthly Update

AVX Corporation

801 17th Avenue South, Myrtle Beach, SC

Winter 2009

Introduction

In an ongoing effort to inform the community near AVX in Myrtle Beach, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) provides this update to the citizens on our mailing list who have expressed interest. The update includes information from DHEC's three program areas (Air, Land & Waste, and Water), as well as other AVX news that DHEC has to share.

Along with this update, DHEC has created a web page (www.scdhec.gov/avx) where DHEC information on the AVX site, including our updates, may be accessed more easily. Anyone interested in receiving these updates either by U.S. mail or email may sign up on the web page to receive them.



On **March 26**, 2009 the Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM) will be hosting [two availability sessions](#) (2-4pm and 7-8pm) at the Myrtle Beach Fire Department – Station #3 (2018 South Kings Highway). Staff will provide an update about ongoing groundwater investigations at the AVX Corporation – Myrtle Beach and the adjacent areas. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. Also, on hand to answer questions, will be DHEC air quality staff and local emergency responders.

Bureau Updates

Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ)

AVX submitted a test plan to DHEC on December 19, 2008 and the source test plan was approved on February 24, 2009. Stack testing began on February 26, 2009. Citizens on our emailing list were notified of the event. The tests were conducted by a third-party testing company. DHEC will also review the test results and issue a summary report. AVX will be conducting additional testing; the source test plan for the additional testing was approved March 17, 2009. The testing, to be conducted by an independent third-party, will now be scheduled. AVX will be notifying DHEC two weeks prior to the scheduled test date.

The source test results will mainly be used to determine AVX's source status (major vs minor) and determine the type of operating permit the company will currently need. Additionally, the test results will be compared to current permit limits. An independent third party is also conducting air dispersion modeling which will be used to determine compliance with state air toxics standards. There are no federal ambient air toxics standards. DHEC will write a summary report for the modeling results as well. The Department expects an application to renew the operating permit after the testing and modeling is complete and has been reviewed by the DHEC.

Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM)

State Superfund/Groundwater Cleanup

In the last quarter of 2008, fieldwork was conducted on and around the AVX facility to implement the Feasibility Study Work Plan (FS). All work was completed to assemble the necessary components of the Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination System (ERD) and the study began operation in late October/early November.

Based on information gathered during this fieldwork, an addendum to the March 2008 FS Work Plan was submitted and approved in October. The addendum modified the Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination Study (ERD) to increase the number of observation wells to be installed and increased the amount of tracer solution to be injected. A modification to the Underground Injection Control Permit was obtained and new Monitoring Well Permits were issued for the additional observation wells. The reason for the modification was due to the minimal gradient in groundwater in the area of the ERD study. The increase in observation wells and injection rate will provide better data for the final design should this method become the final remedy.

During this time-period, AVX decided to remove and investigate the area of a former drum storage pad located on the facility property. A Drum Storage Pad Investigation and Removal Work Plan was submitted and reviewed. The work was completed and a final report of the findings was submitted to DHEC. The area around and under the pad was tested. The sample results did not indicate that this area is a continuing source for groundwater contamination. The area is no longer used for drum storage; AVX removed all concrete and planted trees and grass as part of its company-wide green initiative.

DHEC also completed a review and provided comments on the 2008 Groundwater Monitoring and On-Site Monitoring Well Installation Report. This report documented the field activities and provided the

data collected from April and May 2008. This [report](#) is available for review online as well as at the local DHEC office in Myrtle Beach.

The ERD study will continue with additional injections into early summer 2009. Monthly progress reports from the consultant (ARCADIS) will be provided to the DHEC regarding activities ongoing at the site. A report of the additional soil gas samples collected in September 2008 and a technical memorandum documenting interim findings of the ERD testing will be submitted for review.

Hazardous Waste Compliance

On February 6, 2009 DHEC inspected AVX Corporation for compliance with the requirements as specified by South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (SCHWMR). At the time of the inspection, DHEC found no deficiencies and determined that the facility is considered to be in compliance with the applicable portions of SCHWMR. The [letter](#) to AVX concerning this can be found on the webpage.

Bureau of Water (BOW)

No updates for this time period.

Questions from your community

The current question has come from previous meetings with citizens. We plan to include questions in each of the updates. Please send any other questions you would like to see addressed in future updates to Richelle Tolton at toltonrd@dhec.sc.gov or (843) 953-0173.

Question: What happens when there is an accidental [air] release?

Response: The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) requires regulated facilities to report releases of certain substances above a specified amount to DHEC as soon as possible. Facilities are required to call DHEC's Emergency Response 24-hour number to report these releases that go offsite. -DHEC Emergency Response personnel will work with local emergency response personnel to determine if evacuations or other emergency instructions are necessary. Emergency instructions are disseminated in a variety of methods that include reverse 911 phone calls to residents, door to door notifications and local news and media outlets such as TV and radio. Citizens may also call the DHEC Emergency Response 24-hour number at 1-888-481-0125 or (803) 253-6488 to report any releases or spills. AVX has an emergency response plan that outlines how AVX will respond in case of an

emergency. In practice, however, the AVX processes are unlikely to create such a release; in the event of any failure of the air system, AVX can simply shut down the affected operations.

Air Quality regulations require all facilities that have malfunctions or process upsets lasting more than one hour that exceed an air permit limit to notify DHEC within 24 hours after the beginning of the event. These regulations also require the facility to submit a written report within 30 days outlining the time, duration, and magnitude of the event and the steps taken to remedy the event and limit excess emissions.

Contact Information

For other environmental questions or comments in the Myrtle Beach area, please contact Larry Ragsdale or Matt Maxwell in our local DHEC office at (843) 238-4378.

DHEC would like to continue to share information and discuss concerns about AVX in Myrtle Beach with the surrounding communities. We would also like you to tell us how we can communicate with you more effectively. DHEC typically does this through availability sessions, informal public meetings, or by updates such as this. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us.

Where possible, we would like to send future updates by e-mail. If you are not on our e-mail list to obtain these updates but would like to continue receiving them, please:

- visit the web page (<http://www.scdhec.gov/avx>) to sign-up; or
- contact **Richelle Tolton, Coastal Community Liaison**, at (843) 953-0173, or by e-mail at: toltonrd@dhec.sc.gov.

If you prefer to receive these updates by U.S. Mail, please let us know that as well. Comments concerning the information being provided in the updates are welcome.

Please share this update with others who may be interested!