

Want to Learn More?

Please call our Community Information Line at (800) 853-6621, visit our website at andersoninvolvementplan.com or view documents at Iva Library, 203 W. Cruette Street, Iva, SC.

You can contact Brian Holtzclaw with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, at (404) 562-8684, or by email at holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov

You may also contact Stephanie Smith-Strack with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at (864) 260-5569, or by email at smiths3@dhec.sc.gov

Focus of Current Activity

In accordance with its EPA Consent Order, Owens Corning analyzes all samples (monitoring wells, private wells and surface water) for 16 contaminants of concern (COCs).

The primary focus of the site investigation and remediation is 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), a volatile organic compound (VOC) resulting from the breakdown in the environment of an industrial chemical that was once used at the Owens Corning facility, called 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA).

Permanent monitoring wells are also analyzed for 1,4-dioxane, based on a voluntary agreement with EPA.

Drilling a Drinking Water Well?

If you are in our study area and have plans to drill a new drinking water well on your property, please call us at: (800) 853-6621.

Owens Corning Anderson, SC

4837 Highway 81 South • Starr, South Carolina

This project fact sheet is part of Owens Corning's commitment to keep the public informed about ongoing environmental investigation and remediation activities at the site of its facility in Starr, SC. Updates are issued semiannually or as the situation warrants.

Background

In 1951, Owens Corning, a leading manufacturer of building materials and glass fiber reinforcements, began its composite systems business operations in Starr, SC. Today, the plant manufactures reinforced fiberglass products used in the manufacture of other products. Historical manufacturing processes involved a variety of chemicals, including acids and solvents.

Under the federal Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Owens Corning has been working closely with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to investigate and implement corrective measures associated with the Starr facility.

Owens Corning is committed to protecting the health and safety of Anderson County residents, and to addressing its environmental responsibilities. Since 1995, Owens Corning has conducted extensive investigation work to assess and address the groundwater, including installing a groundwater treatment system.

Work conducted to date includes, but is not limited to: installation of groundwater monitoring wells; monitoring of private water supply wells; collection of soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water samples; and the study of the local geology and hydrogeology (study of the movement of groundwater) to assist in determining the speed and direction of groundwater. This work is ongoing.

Environmental Investigation and Remediation Activities

Monitoring of permanent wells - In 2020, Owens Corning continued quarterly testing of 15 monitoring wells and annual testing of both onsite and offsite wells.

The next round of testing will be conducted in November 2020. All 15 monitoring wells are analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 1,4-dioxane.

Semi-annual monitoring of private wells - Due to COVID-19 concerns, the May 2020 semiannual sampling of private drinking water wells was postponed until June 2020. Additional safety precautions and protections were put in place.

Seven wells were sampled. Seven other wells were inoperable and could not be sampled.

The samples were analyzed for 16 VOC compounds that are the focus of Owens Corning's groundwater monitoring program.

No detections were found in the sampled wells for the 16 compounds analyzed. The next residential well sampling will take place in November 2020.

The private groundwater supply well sampling program began in 2010. Sampling began with 15 wells and one was later abandoned.

Annual Sampling of Betsy Creek - Surface water samples were collected from 10 locations along Betsy Creek in November 2019 and sampled for the 16 VOC compounds. No detections were found. Surface water will be sampled again in November 2020.

Onsite groundwater pump and treat system - The onsite pump and treat system, installed in 2011, continues to work as designed.

Regular system monitoring includes samples for VOC analysis (1,1-DCE and chloroform), quarterly water level measurements to assess groundwater flow direction, and daily system flow rate measurements.

Continued on back

Frequently Asked Questions

What environmental work has Owens Corning conducted so far?

Since 1989, Owens Corning has satisfied EPA requirements and closed out all but one area of concern originally identified.

In November 2011, a pump and treat system was installed to capture and treat groundwater and keep it from flowing off Owens Corning property. It treats groundwater in an above-ground system that removes the contaminants and is working as designed. The system has measurably reduced 1,1-DCE concentrations in groundwater beneath the site and beyond the property boundary to the northeast of the site.

Has Betsy Creek been tested?

Yes. Betsy Creek is a spring-fed stream that originates on the Owens Corning property and passes through the northeast corner of the property. It is not used for drinking (“potable”) water. Testing of surface water and creek sediments has confirmed that the creek meets EPA’s standards for non-potable uses.

Owens Corning discharges processed water into Betsy Creek under a DHEC permit. Monthly monitoring and reporting to DHEC is used to confirm compliance with permit requirements.

Owens Corning Is Committed to the Community

Owens Corning is committed to keeping the communities of Starr and Anderson informed of our plans and activities.

Owens Corning maintains andersoninvolvementplan.com, a dedicated website with sampling data and reports submitted to EPA. A project update is mailed semi-annually to property owners and residents.

Reports and plans also are available at an Information Repository established at Iva Branch Library, located at 203 W. Cruette Street, Iva, SC.

Additionally, results of private and monitoring well sample tests are provided to the respective property owners following the semiannual residential well sampling and quarterly monitoring well sampling.

Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring via Permanent Monitoring Wells

Since 1988, Owens Corning has pursued a program to fully analyze groundwater in the study area. With three monitoring wells added in 2017, a total of 54 permanent monitoring wells are onsite and offsite,

The permanent monitoring helps to define the concentration and location of any remaining contaminants in the groundwater.

Fifteen monitoring wells are now part of the ongoing environmental study northeast of the site.

Some of these wells are within the known area of affected groundwater and others are intentionally located slightly beyond the area and serve to confirm that contaminants are no longer migrating beyond the previously defined area.

Monitoring well sampling is conducted quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Voluntary Testing of 1,4-Dioxane

In 1989, Owens Corning signed a Consent Order with the EPA to investigate and address contamination from the facility’s historical operations, based on a comprehensive review and sampling program performed in cooperation with the EPA and DHEC. 1,4-Dioxane was initially included in testing but discontinued because it was measured at low levels or not detected in groundwater and soil samples collected from onsite locations.

In December 2015, Owens Corning voluntarily agreed to an EPA request to include 1,4-dioxane in its analysis of some groundwater wells and private drinking water wells. EPA is examining the nationwide environmental presence of 1,4-dioxane, which is used in many products, including cosmetics, deodorants, shampoos, paint strippers, dyes, greases, varnishes and waxes.

1,4-Dioxane was not found in any private water well or surface water samples collected in 2016 and 2017, so private well and surface water sampling no longer analyzes for it. Currently, 1,4-dioxane sampling only occurs in groundwater monitoring wells.