

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 Kim Tappa with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at (803) 898-0253, or by email at tappakd@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.

Environmental Investigation and Remediation Activities

Monitoring of permanent wells and surface water – In 2018, Owens Corning will continue quarterly sampling of both onsite and offsite monitoring wells and surface water. The next samples will be collected in February and May from a total of 15 monitoring wells, including three new bedrock monitoring wells installed in May 2017.

Semi-annual monitoring of private wells - In November 2017, Owens Corning continued semiannual sampling of private drinking water wells and collected samples from 10 wells, which were analyzed for the 16 COCs that are the focus of Owens Corning's groundwater monitoring program.

All private well samples were below applicable groundwater quality criteria, and none of these wells showed detections for any of the 16 COCs. The data confirmed that there are no site-related impacts to drinking water in the 10 wells sampled. The next residential well sampling will be conducted in May 2018.

Onsite groundwater pump and treat system - The onsite pump and treat system, installed in 2011, continues to work as designed. Regular monitoring of the system includes sampling for VOC analysis (1,1-DCE and chloroform), quarterly water level measurements, and daily system flow rate measurements.

Voluntary Testing of 1,4-Dioxane - In 2018, Owens Corning will continue to include 1,4-dioxane as part of its analysis of onsite and offsite monitoring wells.

In December 2015, Owens Corning voluntarily agreed to an EPA request to include 1,4-dioxane as part of its analysis of some groundwater wells and all operating private drinking water wells., Owens Corning also voluntarily agreed to analyze surface water for 1,4-dioxane.

All private drinking water wells and surface water samples were below the groundwater and surface water quality criteria, respectively, for 1,4-dioxane. In agreement with the EPA, private residential wells and surface water are no longer analyzed for 1,4-dioxane. *See back page for more information.*

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do private drinking water wells contain site COCs?

Regular semiannual sampling has confirmed there are no contaminants of concern (COCs) in the private drinking water wells that have been tested. Owens Corning samples private water wells located northeast of the site and in the general direction of groundwater flow. This ongoing private well sampling program began in 2010 with the sampling of 15 wells. In 2018, 14 wells remain in the program and are tested semiannually, depending on operating status.

What environmental work has Owens Corning conducted so far?

Since 1989, Owens Corning has been working closely with EPA. In November 2011, a pump and treat system was installed to treat groundwater and keep it from flowing off Owens Corning property.

The system's wells capture groundwater and treat it in an above ground system that removes the contaminants. It is working as designed and has measurably reduced 1,1-DCE concentrations beneath the site and in groundwater 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 confirms compliance with permit requirements.

Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring via Permanent Monitoring Wells

Since 1988, Owens Corning has pursued a program to fully assess the groundwater in the study area. A total of 54 permanent monitoring wells have been installed onsite and offsite. Owens Corning installed three additional permanent monitoring wells in 2017 to better define the concentration and location of remaining site COCs in the groundwater.

Fifteen monitoring wells are now part of the ongoing environmental study northeast of the site. Impacts to groundwater have been identified primarily in bedrock, at depths of approximately 200-400 feet.

Some of these wells are within the known area of affected groundwater and others are intentionally located slightly beyond the area and serve to show that site COCs are not migrating beyond the previously defined area.

Monitoring well sampling is conducted quarterly in February, May, August and November. Onsite and offsite permanent monitoring wells are sampled in the November sampling event.

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.

Andersoninvolvementplan.com is Owens Corning's 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.

In September 2010, Owens Corning held a community information session to outline its investigation and answer questions from the community.

Voluntary Testing of 1,4-Dioxane

In 1989, Owens Corning signed a Consent Order with the EPA to investigate and address environmental impacts from the site'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 at all, 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 as part of its analysis of some groundwater wells and private drinking water wells. EPA is working nationwide to examine 1,4-dioxane, which is used in many products, including paint strippers, dyes, greases, varnishes and waxes. It is also found in some consumer products, such as deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics.

Owens Corning began sampling for 1,4-dioxane in January 2016 in five permanent monitoring wells, and collected samples again from six monitoring wells in August 2016. In November 2016, analysis of 1,4-dioxane was included in the sampling of private water wells and surface water. In February 2017, Owens Corning voluntarily agreed to sample all onsite and offsite permanent monitoring wells for 1,4-dioxane.

1,4-Dioxane has not been detected in any of the private water well or surface water samples. In agreement with the EPA, private residential wells and surface water are no longer analyzed for 1,4-dioxane.