



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SUBJECT: Cabot Supermetals
Revere, PA
RCRA ID: PAD0145123388

DATE: 05/18/2020

Long-term Stewardship Assessment

FROM: Barbara Smith
Project Manager (3LD10)

TO: Long Term Stewardship File for Cabot Supermetals
RCRA Corrective Action Branch 2 (3LD20)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Gottlieb".

Remedy Review Summary:

EPA's Final Decision (7/12/2011) required Cabot Supermetals to develop and record an environmental covenant restricting the property to non-residential use. EPA confirmed that the property remains unused/vacant. Therefore, Cabot Supermetals is in compliance with EPA's Final Decision. Engineering controls were not required, however, a chain link fence is maintained for security. The property is ready for reuse.

Review/Site Visit:

EPA reviewed the most recent available aerial image of the Facility (June 2018) obtained from Google Earth. The Facility is located in a rural, low density residential area. The Facility is wooded with some open fields, with Rapp Creek flowing through the western portion of the site with high-tension power lines crossing the property. No construction or indications of property disturbance were observed in the Google Earth image.

On May 1, 2020, Barbara Smith (EPA) traveled to the property and confirmed that current land use is unused/vacant. I observed the fencing along Beaver Run Road, the main access point to the Facility and found no breaches in the chain link fencing. The fencing, gates and gate locks appeared to be well maintained.

The Environmental Covenant was recorded on 6/13/2011 and is on PA's Activity and Use Limitation website under 'Penn Rare Metals' (ID: 620509) and is also available on EPA's Fact Sheet for this Facility, along with the Final Decision document.



Background:

In 1959 Penn Rare Metals (PRM) began extracting metal beryllium from beryl ore at their 102-acre Facility in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County, PA. In 1963, Cabot Corporation (Cabot) took ownership of PRM and continued to operate the Facility for the production of metal alloys (cesium, rubidium and niobium) and high purity germanium and tellurium metalloids. Production ceased in 2002 and all but two buildings were demolished. The property is currently owned by Cabot and has remained unutilized since 2002.

Several environmental investigations occurred at the facility in the 1980s, which included a preliminary assessment and site investigation that characterized soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater. Further investigations in the 1990s focused on low-level radioactive slag that was determined to be safe for unrestricted use in 2001 and was removed from the Facility in 2006. Approximately 11,469 tons of slag was removed and used off-site for beneficial purposes. During the 2000's, 50 drums of non-hazardous industrial solid waste were excavated and removed, an underground storage tank was removed, and fire pond characterization activities were completed. Facility soil, groundwater, sediment and surface water from five on-site industrial ponds were sampled, and off-site, groundwater and surface water from Rapp Creek was sampled. Results showed that on- and off-site groundwater was not impacted by Facility activities, nor was surface water in Rapp Creek. Facility soil, surface water and sediment from the industrial ponds were found to be within EPA's acceptable risk for industrial settings.

In July 2011, EPA determined that Cabot had met its Corrective Activities obligations and no further investigation or remediation was necessary and issued the Final Remedy, after the public comment period ended. The remedy consists of maintaining the land use restriction institutional control (IC) in the environmental covenant recorded in Bucks County records on 6/13/2011. The land use restriction is for 61.612-acres of the total 102-acres, restricting the 61.612-acres to non-residential use, specifically excluding use for schools, nursing home facilities, recreational use and any residential style facilities. Post Remedy activities were performed in response to concerns raised by Nockamixon Township in correspondence with EPA from March 2012 to June 2014. Concerns cited were inadequate restoration and characterization following closure of the Facility. EPA ensured that the Facility removed the debris from a small area of the Facility and completed restoration activities to the satisfaction of the Bucks County Conservation District. EPA also directed and oversaw sampling of the former quenching pond performed by the Facility consultant in December 2014 and August 2015. Results from this sampling revealed slight exceedances of arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in most sediment samples, however, higher concentrations of these contaminants were found in background samples taken upgradient of the Facility, indicating that the former quenching pond was not impacted by industrial activity above background levels. In October 2015, EPA determined that the additional activities performed at the Facility were complete and no further investigation was warranted.

Reference Documents:

Cabot Corporation EPA Fact Sheet, which includes:
EPA Final Decision and Response to Comments (July 12, 2011),
Environmental Covenant, recorded June 13, 2011,
Facility boundaries and Covenant area, mapped September 30, 2017.
Google Earth image, June 2018.

Institutional Control/Engineering Control
 Corrective Action Remedy Summary

Facility Name	Cabot Supermetals, aka Cabot Corp., Penn Rare Metals			
Address	377 Beaver Run Road, Revere, PA 18953			
EPA ID Number	PAD014512388			
Are there restrictions or controls that address:	Yes	No	Area(s)	Description of restrictions, controls and mechanism
Groundwater Use		X		
Residential Use	X		61.612 acres of 102 total Facility acreage.	Environmental Covenant , recorded 6/13/2011, restricts land use to non-residential uses, specifically excluding use for schools, nursing home facilities, recreational and any residential style facilities.
Excavation		X		
Vapor Intrusion		X		
Capped Area(s)		X		
Other Engineering Controls		X		
Other Restrictions		X		