



Delavan will begin cleanup at Bamberg site



8 HOURS AGO • BY GENE ZALESKI T&D STAFF WRITER

BAMBERG — Delavan Inc. is to begin an on-site hazardous chemical cleanup effort under the oversight of the state.

The manufacturer of fuel meters and industrial spray nozzles has entered into a contract with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control to investigate the soil and groundwater contamination at its site as part of DHEC's Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program.

The contract is in a 30-day public comment period with the deadline to submit comments being June 24.

As part of the Responsible Party Voluntary Cleanup Contract, Delavan will reimburse DHEC's past costs — about \$8,992 — and future oversight costs related to the contract.

DHEC's various programs, including its Brownfields Program, is funded in part by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants.

Brownfields are properties for which the expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

Delavan, which operates on about 20 acres at 4334 Main Highway, produces a wide range of industrial spray tips or nozzles for industries ranging from agriculture to aeronautics and manufacturing to road building.

Under the contract, Delavan will be responsible remedying potential public or environmental health hazards. The company will be required to be in frequent contact with DHEC throughout the process.

DHEC officials say the risk at the site is minimal.

"Although there is no indication of additional concerns beyond those already identified in the Voluntary Cleanup Contract, Delavan has agreed to perform additional site testing as part of the agreement," DHEC spokesman Jim Beasley said.

Following the comment period, a public hearing may be held contingent on the scale of concern.

Delavan has operated at the site since 1970 and today has an approximately 50,000-square-

(2)

foot manufacturing building, a storage warehouse, a hazardous waste storage building, an above-ground storage tank containment area, a wastewater pretreatment plant building and two shop buildings.

In 2002, Delavan conducted an environmental assessment at the site when it was found that hazardous volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were in the soil and groundwater.

The materials included tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene, which are used as solvents for degreasing.

"We know they are in the groundwater and do not want anyone drinking that water if it has not been treated first," Beasley said. Other materials found are dichloroethenes and vinyl chloride.

These are degradations of the first two chemicals, Beasley said.

In March 2005, Delavan began hydrogen release compound injection monitoring aimed at reducing contaminants in the groundwater.

Between 2008-2012, the company did multiple groundwater assessments to further assess the contamination.

During these assessments, contaminated groundwater was found in 2007 at an off-site private well northeast of the property. The well was abandoned at that time. In 2008, a newly installed well was found southwest of the property. This well too has been abandoned.

In 2010, the company sampled seven private wells about a half-mile southwest of the property. VOCs were detected in three wells. At the time, Delavan provided bottled water and granulated activated carbon units for all seven wells.

An additional groundwater assessment was conducted in 2011. The assessment concluded that no further contamination was coming from the site.

DHEC then installed carbon filters on the site.

The Delavan site is not the only such one in the state. According to a DHEC public list, there are at least 367 such contaminated sites across South Carolina. The list can be assessed by going to scdhec.gov and clicking on the environment tab on the home page. The link is under land and waste management.

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* Delavan Inc. public comment

The public comment period for the Delavan Incorporated Responsible Party Voluntary Cleanup Contract with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control will last until June 24.

The complete text of the VCC may be viewed at DHEC's website:
www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/publicnotice.htm

Written comments should be addressed to Pat Vincent, SCDHEC-LWM, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201 or email comments to vincenpl@dhec.sc.gov.

One may also contact Vincent at 803-896-4074 with questions/comments or to request a copy of the VCC.