



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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People invited to comment on proposal to cleanup industrial site in Asheville

RALEIGH – State environmental officials are inviting people to comment on a proposal that calls for a company to cleanup hazardous substances from its former industrial site in Asheville.

The proposed agreement calls for CTS Corporation to voluntarily cleanup the Mills Gap Road site under the supervision of the N.C. Division of Waste Management. The site will include any area the company has impacted with contamination, both on and beyond the fenced former plant area. CTS ran an electroplating plant at the site from 1959 until 1984. Other companies operated at the same site before and after CTS.

A public comment period on the cleanup agreement will run through May 15. All written comments received during the public comment period will be considered in the decision-making process regarding the proposed agreement. As required by state law, the Division of Waste Management placed notices about the comment period in several area newspapers.

Samples of groundwater at the former CTS site have revealed contamination levels of the chlorinated solvent trichloroethylene, which is also known as trichloroethene or TCE, that far exceed the federal safe drinking water standards. TCE is used primarily during industrial processes to remove grease from metal parts. Long-term exposure to TCE in the air or drinking water can be harmful to peoples' health.

CTS is conducting testing at their former site to determine the nature and extent of any contamination. The testing is one component of CTS's comprehensive site assessment, or evaluation of all the information gathered about the site. That assessment, which is being supervised by the state Division of Waste Management, must be completed before cleanup can begin. As such, the work under the proposed administrative agreement between the state and CTS will start when the Division of Waste Management has approved the assessment. By state law, remedial actions performed for the Division of Waste Management's inactive hazardous sites branch must be done under an administrative agreement.

The Division of Waste Management will place notices in local newspapers and provide further notification when a proposed cleanup plan has been prepared.

A copy of the proposed agreement can be seen during normal library business hours at the EPA Repository (CTS) in Pack Memorial Library, 67 Haywood St., Asheville, or by appointment at the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Winston-Salem Regional Office, 585 Waughtown St., Winston-Salem. The document can be seen at the regional office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. To make an appointment to see the proposed agreement at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Winston-Salem office, please contact Alice Lunsford at (336) 771-5000. You may also see the proposed agreement on the following Division of Waste Management Web link, www.wastenotnc.org/CTSmillsgaproad/.

Written comments on the proposed agreement must be postmarked no later than May 15 and should be sent to

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