

Want to Learn More?

Visit - berlincommunitysite.com
Call - (888) 827-0983

Kelly Henry or John McKeegan, the Community Liaisons on behalf of Owens Corning, will respond to your call.

To learn more about DOWTHERM A™ visit:
www.dow.com/en-us/pdp.dowtherm-a-heat-transfer-fluid.238000z.html#overview

Mr. David Thompson is the Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP).

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FAST FACTS

Site Name: Owens Corning

Site Location:
160 Jackson Road, Berlin Borough, Camden County, New Jersey -- just west of the intersection of Jackson Road with Route 73

Block & Lot Numbers:
Block 1502, Lot 4; Block 1600, Lots 4, 5, and 6

NJDEP Site Preferred ID #:
013542

Owens Corning is responsible for conducting the remediation; the Project Manager for Owens Corning is Alan Lake. He can be reached via our Community Information Line at 888-827-0983.

About DOWTHERM A™
DOWTHERM A™ was used at the former Owens Corning facility in the insulation manufacturing process and is a mixture of two chemicals:
1,1'- biphenyl and diphenyl ether.
Publication Date: October 2024

FORMER OWENS CORNING FACILITY SITE

160 Jackson Road • BERLIN, NEW JERSEY

This project update has been developed by Owens Corning in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulations for Notification and Public Outreach to keep the public informed about ongoing environmental investigations and remediation activities at the site of a former Owens Corning facility.

Site History

Historically, the facility operated as a sand and brick manufacturing plant from 1927 to 1941. In 1941, the facility was purchased by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, which continued brick manufacturing until 1947.

In 1947, Owens-Illinois converted the manufacturing operations to the production of high-temperature insulating materials under the brand name Kaylo®. Owens Corning purchased the facility in 1958 and continued the production of high-temperature insulation until manufacturing operations ceased in October 1993.

The site is vacant and occupies approximately 45 acres, some of which are covered by paving, building pads, and other improvements related to the former manufacturing operations. All of the buildings at the facility have been removed.

Environmental Investigations & Remediation Activities

The site was entered into the Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA) program by Owens Corning when manufacturing operations ceased in October 1993.

Site investigation activities, conducted in cooperation with and under the direction of the Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) in accordance with the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), identified soil and ground water impacts related to the former manufacturing operations.

Impacts to ground water extend offsite and are related to the historic use of DOWTHERM A™ (a heat transfer fluid). Impacts to soil are delineated and limited to the site.

Status of Remediation Activities

Response Action Outcome – The LSRP for the project issued Owens Corning a Response Action Outcome (RAO) in October 2024 stating that the remediation has been completed in compliance with the NJDEP regulations and is protective of public health, safety and the environment.

Remediation and monitoring are ongoing as outlined in the Remedial Action Permits.

In July 2024, NJDEP approved Owens Corning's soil and ground water Remedial Action Permits, allowing the RAO to be issued. Owens Corning originally submitted the permit applications in 2021 and incorporated feedback from NJDEP.

Soil Remedial Action Permits are common for a site with an engineering control and are required whenever soil contamination remains in place above the unrestricted use Soil Remediation Standards.

Ground water Remedial Action Permits are required to address ground water impacts at sites.

Completed Onsite Soil Remediation – In Situ Stabilization (ISS) was used in 2019 and 2020 to successfully remediate approximately 70,600 cubic yards of soil between 19 and 60 below ground surface. ISS, which complies with all NJDEP requirements for soil remediation, immobilizes contaminants by mixing them in place with stabilizing agents.

In 2018, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) impacted soil in one area was successfully remediated by excavating to a depth of eight feet below ground surface and backfilled with clean soil to match the surrounding grade.

Continued on back

Continued from front

Ongoing Remediation and Monitoring - Since 2020, a biovent system of wells and pipes in three acres of the former manufacturing area has worked as designed to speed the natural process of bio-degradation by introducing oxygen to promote microorganisms to break down the constituents of concern.

A ground water pump and treatment system has been working as designed since 2014 to improve onsite and offsite ground water quality.

Vegetation Management - Vegetation management is ensuring the proper maintenance of an onsite, capped landfill, approximately one acre in size, along the eastern edge of the property.

Monitoring of Permanent Wells - Owens Corning monitors the horizontal and vertical extents of DOWTHERM A™ constituents in ground water via 16 permanent monitoring wells installed in and around the study area perimeter, in addition to monitoring wells on site.

Annual Monitoring of Private Wells – As a result of discussions about potential impacts to ground water above the applicable water quality standards, NJDEP and Owens Corning adjusted the CEA/WRA, removing some private properties from the annual well sampling and including others.

In Summer 2024, Owens Corning performed its 12th annual sampling of private drinking water wells on properties within the Classification Exception Area (CEA)/Well Restriction Area (WRA).

Private wells are sampled for the DOWTHERM A™ constituents, 1,1-biphenyl and diphenyl ether, and dibenzofuran, which can be created when DOWTHERM A™ decomposes under high heat.

All but one well sampled met the GWQ standards for the constituents of DOWTHERM A™. For the well that did not meet the standards, Owens Corning has contacted the property owner and established a long-term solution for potable water.

More than 70 wells at residential and commercial properties have been sampled since February 2012 – many of them more than once.

As of September 2024, water from 11 private wells in the CEA/WRA were found to contain levels of one or more of the DOWTHERM A™ constituents above the GWQ standards. Long-term solutions were established with the agreement of the property owners.

Ongoing Community Outreach – Owens Corning voluntarily provides this update by mail semi-annually to all residents, businesses and property owners ever contacted about the investigation. The company also provides it to officials from Berlin Borough, Berlin Township, Waterford Township and Evesham Township, and meets with them upon request.

Classification Exception Areas (CEAs)

A CEA is an administrative control that identifies the horizontal and vertical extents of ground water impacts for state and county officials.

For the purpose of protecting public health and safety, a CEA is sometimes coupled with a Well Restriction Area (WRA), which does not prohibit wells, but provides guidelines for well construction.

❖ **A CEA with a WRA:** For properties where impacts to ground water are above Class IIA GWQ standards for DOWTHERM A™ constituents. Property owners in this CEA/WRA are included in Owens Corning’s annual monitoring program. Owens Corning has combined this CEA with a previously approved CEA for dibenzofuran.

❖ **A CEA with no well restriction area:** Defines impacts to ground water that exceed the Class I GWQ environmental standards of the New Jersey Pinelands. The properties are not included in Owens Corning’s annual monitoring program.

❖ **A CEA with a WRA on Owens Corning’s property:** For constituents found only onsite at the former facility site. There are no impacts to offsite properties.

Class I refers to ground water of Special Ecological Significance, such as the Pinelands area.

Class IIA refers to ground water for the Potable Water Supply.

Hydrology Study and Ongoing Mullica River Monitoring

In 2012-13, an Owens Corning hydrology study found no impacts to the Mullica River from the DOWTHERM A™ constituents. NJDEP has requested a confirmatory round of sampling and that is anticipated to occur in 2024.

Planning a New Well?

If you are planning to drill a new well,
please call the
community information line.
(888) 827-0983