Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch
CTS of Asheville Summary
(NCD003149556/Former APS# 20358)
Mills Gap Road, Buncombe County

This is the September 2009 update of activities directed by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources that CTS of Asheville is performing at the Mills Gap Road site in Asheville.

IHSB-CTS Site, Order of Documents:

September 2009 Update:

- The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources continues its review of the Phase I Assessment Report. A comment and response letter to CTS will follow completion of DENR's review. The Phase I Assessment Report was posted to the state Division of Waste Management's Web site.

- Dot Rice, a resident living near the former CTS plant, called DENR staff to ask about removal of the drums of Investigation Derived Waste (IDW) that were temporarily stored (pending proper disposal arrangements) on her property by MacTec during the installation of monitoring well MW-11B in July 2009. IDW refers to soil and water removed during the installation and sampling of monitoring wells. This form of waste must be placed in containers and properly disposed of. DENR staff communicated with CTS, MacTec and the Environmental Protection Agency about the timeline for removal of the IDW. Zebra Environmental, of High Point, was subcontracted by CTS to remove the IDW from Rice's property. Zebra Environmental is licensed and trained in the proper handling and removal of the IDW. The removal took place on Sept. 2. The waste manifests will be made available to the public as soon as they are received by the state.

- On Aug. 20, Eddy Shook, who works with the Buncombe County Health Department, called DENR staff and asked for the state's "feelings about the high level of reported TCE in MW-11B located on Dot Rice's property." This inquiry was explained to have been initiated by the citizens advisory group. DENR staff explained that the high concentration of TCE detected in the monitoring well (35,000 parts per billion) was likely due to the fact that the well nest located at the MW-11 location depicts a typical vertical stratification for TCE and also shows how TCE tends to sink to greater depths in the contaminant plume area. That means concentrations of TCE would likely be higher at greater depths until the TCE encounters an impermeable barrier.

- On Aug. 21, David Dorian, an on-scene coordinator with the EPA, notified the state that he had also received an inquiry from Rice about the IDW. DENR was assisting with the EPA's efforts to gain access to additional drinking water well sampling and noted that on Sept. 2 the IDW drums were removed from Rice's property. One drum was left and secured behind the fence surrounding the contaminated springs. CTS also contacted EPA and the state restating that the IDW would be removed for proper disposal.