



Moving ahead with assessments and countermeasures regarding Group business sites in Japan

We conducted surveys at the Sumitomo Bakelite Group's plant sites of soil and groundwater based on the record of usage of 25 substances specified in Japan's Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act. As a result, we found that there were locations where the level of substances was in excess of the standards set by the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act within the plant sites of Sano Plastic Co., Ltd., and the Company's Nara and Kanuma plants.

Soil and Groundwater Remediation Work at a Former Plant Site of Sano Plastic*1

As a result of a general assessment of the soil and groundwater conducted beginning in December 2006, levels of trichloroethylene and other substances in excess of the environmental quality standard were detected. In addition, inspections of the groundwater in areas surrounding the site detected trichloroethylene and other substances*2 in excess of the allowable limit in some well water. We gave a report to the local government authorities and explained the results to the neighborhood community association. In February 2008, we began remediation work using a combination countermeasure method involving the excavation and removal of some soil as well as the use of reductive decomposition to decontaminate the soil. This work was completed in May 2009. We then conducted soil and water sampling surveys at the site through the end of May and confirmed that the remediation work had reduced the substance levels to below the environmental quality standards. In addition, we confirmed that the declines in concentration in wells surrounding the site. Monitoring surveys of groundwater inside and outside the site will be conducted eight times over a period of two years.



Overall view of the remediation work (June 2008)

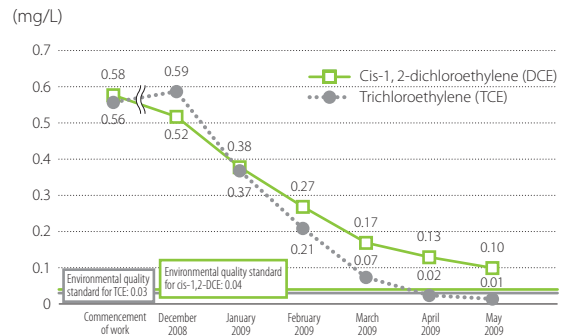


Site following the completion of the remediation work (May 2009)

Soil Contamination at the Nara Plant

Lead in concentrations exceeding environmental quality standards was detected in sludge in roadside rain gutters within the plant complex in January 2008. Since rainwater from such gutters flows into a regulating pond shared with other companies in the industrial park in which the Nara Plant is located, we conducted surveys on water in the regulating pond and beyond

Trends in Concentrations of VOC Found in Groundwater Drawn from Observation Wells outside the Site



*1. Address: 213 Kubocho, Sano City, Tochigi Prefecture. As a consolidated subsidiary of Sumitomo Bakelite, Sano Plastic manufactured plastic-molded parts at this site from August 1968 through June 2002. The plant site was closed in August 2002.

*2. The largest values detected in well water were 0.78 mg/L for trichloroethylene (versus an environmental quality standard of 0.03 mg/L) and 0.66 mg/L for cis-1, 2-DCE (versus an environmental quality standard of 0.04 mg/L) (as of October 2008).

the exit conduit from the pond. As a result, we discovered there were areas with high concentrations*3 of lead on the bottom of the pond. Beyond the exit conduit, the concentrations of lead were at the same level as in the natural environment.

Following discussions with the industrial park's management committee and government authorities, we decided to implement work to remove the sediment at the bottom of the regulating pond in October 2009.

*3. The largest values detected were 260 mg/kg. (While there is no statutory quality standard for lead concentrations in sediment, the environmental quality standard for lead concentrations in soil is 150 mg/kg.)

Soil Contamination at the Kanuma Plant

Boron in concentrations exceeding environmental quality standards was detected in soil adjacent to a waste liquid tank within the plant complex in March 2008. Thereafter, following a detailed survey, the concentration for the surface layer of soil was found to be below the statutory quality standard, and boron was not detected in groundwater. However, according to the results of elution tests, at a depth of three meters, lead concentrations of 3.8 mg/L were detected, which exceed environmental quality standards by a factor of 3.8 times. Therefore, we adopted the measure of forbidding excavations in the contaminated portion and the surrounding area, and we will monitor groundwater on a continuing basis. Please note that, as a result of surveys to detect possible contamination outside the plant site, it was confirmed that levels are below environmental quality standards.