

June 3, 2022

Mr. Jed Hewitt  
DNR/EPD Coastal District  
400 Commerce Center Drive  
Brunswick, GA 31523

Re: Georgia-Pacific Savannah River LLC  
NRC Report No. 1337396  
GA EPD CTS No. 100302

Mr. Hewitt:

The Georgia-Pacific Savannah River LLC Mill is submitting the following information related to the above referenced incident that was reported to the National Response Center (NRC) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) on May 31, 2022.

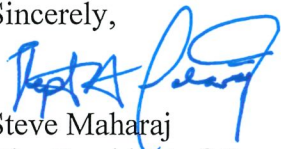
Based on our investigation of the incident, below is a description and timeline of the event and corresponding actions, response, and corrective actions taken.

- At approximately 2:30 AM on May 31, 2022, one of the utilities operators discovered the bleach leak coming from a tote while performing a routine inventory check. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the leak was a result of a failed fitting that had disconnected from the system. The head pressure from the tote caused the bleach to spill outside of the containment area onto the surrounding soil (see photo attached below). The operator stopped the leak and radioed the utilities control room for assistance. The spill was locally contained to the soil in the area.
- Once the crew leader arrived at the scene, it was estimated that about 250 gallons had spilled based on normal usage data and remaining contents in the tote.
- Two mill Emergency Response Team members who work in the utilities department began securing the spill area and putting material in place to absorb the bleach.
- The crew lead returned to the control room and began making internal notification calls at approximately 3:00 AM. The crew lead attempted to contact the environmental manager and other environmental staff as well as the safety manager. He was able to speak to one of our environmental staff and the safety manager, but they were both on vacation and unable to assist. For other calls, voicemails were left. No other calls were made by the crew lead after that.

- At approximately 6:30 AM, our environmental manager picked up the voicemail, and after speaking briefly with one of our utilities employees, determined that the appropriate notifications had not yet been made to the NRC or GA EPD.
- At 6:36 AM our environmental manager notified the NRC followed by notification to the GA EPD at 6:47 AM.
- At approximately 2:00 PM, we completed our initial root cause investigation. The bleach delivery system was a temporary system and had already been scheduled to be replaced with a permanent system. The permanent system was completed on the afternoon of May 31<sup>st</sup> and put into service at approximately 3:00 PM (see photo attached below). There are also several other corrective actions scheduled to take place involving improvements around the operation of temporary chemical systems throughout the mill (including containment) and training (including notification requirements).
- The soil that had been impacted by the spill as well as the absorbent material used to contain the spill were removed and disposed of appropriately. The clean-up was completed around 3:00 PM on the afternoon of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Brent Howell at 912-826-9035 or 912-247-4546.

Sincerely,



Steve Maharaj  
Vice President of Operations

Cc: Thomas Giordano, GA EPD





Temporary System Showing Failure Point

New Permanent System

