

Economic Profile

INVISTA Seaford Plant

Seaford, Delaware

CONTINUED USE



Nylon Producer



Golf Course

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and
Environmental Control (DNREC)

This facility was the world's first nylon plant. E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company ("DuPont") began the commercial production of nylon here in 1939. During World War II, the plant began producing nylon for parachutes, mosquito netting, tents and other goods needed for the war effort. After the war, the Seaford plant continued to be an important part of DuPont's textile fiber program.

Environmental investigations by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) identified arsenic and other toxic chemical contamination in groundwater caused by facility operations. Solid waste was also exposed in different areas around the facility. DNREC required corrective measures to resolve the environmental issues in 2006. With oversight by DNREC under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (formerly the RCRA Corrective Action Program), DuPont took actions to clean up and monitor the facility. The corrective measures are now complete.

Now under new ownership since 2004, the plant continues to produce nylon fiber as part of INV Performance Materials, LLC for use in military uniforms and other apparel. The plant's waste from production is confined to and protected in a designated area and warehouse. The facility generates \$135 million in sales annually and employs 200 people in Seaford.



ANNUAL SALES

\$135 million



EMPLOYEES

200



ANNUAL WAGES

\$25 million

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-hazardous-waste-cleanups





THIS PROPERTY IS NOT ONLY SIGNIFICANT TO SEAFORD'S HISTORY BUT ALSO TO OUR FUTURE. THE GOLF COURSE IS BEAUTIFUL AND IS ENJOYED NOT ONLY BY THOSE SWINGING CLUBS BUT ALSO THE FOX, DEER AND GEESE. WHEN COMPANIES ARE LOOKING TO RE-LOCATE AND SEAFORD IS ON THEIR SHORT LIST, THE GOLF COURSE ALWAYS COMES UP AS A PLUS. THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THIS IS IMMEASURABLE.

David Genshaw, Mayor of Seaford

To clean up the facility under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program, DuPont put a protective cover over solid waste. DuPont also monitored the natural reduction of toxic chemicals in the groundwater and surface water. DuPont and DNREC established an environmental covenant to limit future groundwater use and soil disturbance. These measures have allowed the Seaford plant to continue operating in an environmentally sound manner.

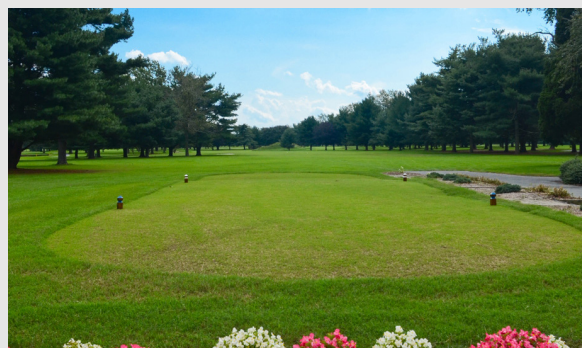
In addition to generating economic benefits for the region, INVISTA is managing a large portion of the facility as wildlife habitat. In 2017, INVISTA achieved a two-year conservation certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, which recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management at corporate sites. INVISTA Seaford's program converted idle production facilities into managed water habitats for wildlife, with a focus on enhancing eastern bluebird and wood duck habitats. As part of the program, INVISTA allocated 146 acres of the facility to the Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy for conservation.

The facility also provides recreational opportunities for local residents – the on-site golf course, built in 1949 as part of the DuPont facility, is now owned by the city of Seaford and open to the community. In addition to the original nine-hole course, another nine holes were constructed adjacent to the facility property in 1996, which the city continues to lease as part of the 18-hole course.

The pioneering days of nylon were a significant chapter in the history of Seaford. The plant that made Seaford the "Nylon Capital of the World" was designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark in 1995 by the American Chemical Society. Today, with cleanup complete under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program, this facility continues to support the Seaford community, providing jobs, outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat.



The eastern bluebird is one of the species benefiting from INVISTA's conservation efforts at the facility. These efforts were recognized by the Wildlife Habitat Council with a certification for outstanding wildlife habitat management.



The plant's original nine holes are now part of Hooper's Landing Golf Course.