

January 27, 2023

Announcement of Scheduled Resumption of Operations at the Tokuyama Plant

Zeon Corporation

As previously announced, Zeon Corporation has suspended operations at its Tokuyama Plant (Shunan City, Yamaguchi Prefecture) since January 15 due to the discovery of a malfunction in its boiler facilities. Today, we are announcing that operations will resume on February 1, as preparations have been completed with the cooperation of all related parties.

The following is a summary report on what is currently known regarding the facility malfunction. Once again, we sincerely apologize for causing any concern or inconvenience within the neighboring community or among other parties.

1. Product shipments

Since operations will steadily resume, beginning with the upstream processes, the schedule for the resumption of shipments will be announced by the sales representative of each business division.

2. Status of the facility malfunction and future response

Due to reinforcement work on the stack with discharge functions for boiler facilities, a temporary stack was installed so that operations could be maintained. However, a malfunction occurred during discharge, and in early January, fallen debris (iron rust) discharged from the stack was observed on the premises of Zeon and of an adjacent company. After investigating the cause of the problem and implementing countermeasures, Zeon determined that a complete solution could not be reached and decided to temporarily shut down the boiler facilities. Since the boiler supplies electricity, steam, and other utilities to the plant, this led to the suspension of operations across the entire place, except for the safety equipment.

The recent malfunction is believed to have been caused by the material of the temporary stack, and as an emergency measure, Zeon will switch to using the existing stack to resume operations. The reinforcement work on the existing chimney will proceed pending a re-examination of the plan, including the material of the temporary stack, and the implementation of thorough safety measures.

Zeon has confirmed that both the existing and temporary stack are functioning properly and that emission data, such as soot concentration, is within the normal range. Since the fallen debris is large enough to be confirmed visually, it is unlikely to remain floating in the air, and the risk of inhaling it is considered low. The area within the range of falling debris is also limited at this time.

Every effort will be made to ensure safety first in resuming operations, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as the necessary steps are taken. Related business divisions will be responding as appropriate for affected products, and we will promptly disclose any matters that may arise.

For more information, contact:

Customers (please direct your inquiry to the sales representatives of each of the following divisions):

Elastomers Sales & Marketing, Elastomers Division (synthetic rubbers, synthetic latices)

Sales & Marketing, C5 Chemicals Division (polymerized toner)

CNT Division (single-walled nanotubes)

Members of the press:

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