

Evor Phillips Leasing

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654222

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 12

Middlesex

Old Bridge Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Evor Phillips Leasing (EPL) site covers six acres in Old Bridge Township. The surrounding area is largely industrial. In the early 1970s, the site was used for various waste treatment, hauling and disposal businesses. The site also contained nineteen horizontal furnaces which were used for the incineration of photographic film and printed circuit boards. Two former surface impoundments, used for the neutralization of caustic and acidic waste waters, were located in the northeast area of the site. The area was unlined, enabling contaminants to migrate through the soil, ground water, and surface water. A State investigation conducted in 1982 estimated that approximately 150 drums containing chemicals were buried at the site. The Sayreville municipal wellfield is located approximately 1,000 feet southwest, and the City of Perth Amboy wellfield is located approximately 3,000 feet southwest of the site. All nearby residents have discontinued use of private wells and are now served by a municipal water supply.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through State and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including dichloroethane and trichloroethylene (TCE), and heavy metals such as copper, nickel, and zinc have contaminated the ground water. The soil is contaminated with VOCs and phthalates, a plastics by-product. Direct contact with the soil, or accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or contaminated ground water, could pose a health threat. Municipal well data confirms the presence of site-related contaminants in the ground water. All well water samples exceeded EPA and State of New Jersey water quality criteria for heavy metals. On-site contaminants leaching into the underlying aquifer may be causing contamination of nearby wellfields.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in three stages: initial actions, an interim remedy, and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1983, the State conducted a Removal Action where drums were excavated and removed from the site. At the time, 30 drums were estimated to remain buried on site. This removal action was part of the first phase of the Remedial Investigation lead by the State. The first phase was completed in 1987 and the second phase in April 1990. The results of this investigation were presented in the 1992 RI report.

Entire Site: Contamination at the Site is being addressed in two phases. In 1992, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) selecting an interim remedy to clean up the first phase of the site. The interim remedy included removal and disposal of buried drums, and an interim groundwater remedy which includes extraction, on-site organic and inorganic contaminant treatment, and on-site reinjection of ground water underlying the Site. NJDEP has constructed a groundwater extraction and treatment system, and modified the interim groundwater remedy through an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) in May 2002 to provide for the extraction of the most highly contaminated on-site groundwater, on-site treatment of the groundwater to remove organic contaminants, and then discharge of the treated groundwater off-site to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). The NJDEP has negotiated the performance of the interim groundwater remedy with the PRPs, and has obtained clearance to discharge partially treated groundwater to the POTW. The PRPs have taken over operation of the groundwater treatment system through an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) which was issued in April 2002. A second ROD will be developed to address remediation of contaminated soils at the Site as well as a final groundwater treatment remedy to address all on- and off-site contaminated

groundwater.

Site Facts: Under an ACO, entered into by the State and several PRPs in 1994, the PRPs contributed funds for a remedial investigation of source contamination at the Site, agreed to demolish the office buildings and furnaces, and remove the buried drums and underground storage tanks identified during remedial investigations. In February 1996, a group of PRPs signed a second ACO with NJDEP to perform the soil studies called for in the ROD. In July 1997, the PRP group submitted an RI/FS Workplan to conduct activities which will be used to develop the second ROD. This RI/FS includes the continuation of contaminated soil and groundwater investigations and development and evaluation of remedial alternatives for final soil and groundwater remedies. The PRPs completed these soil and groundwater investigations in 1999. The final RI report submitted by the PRPs was approved by NJDEP in October 2000. In March 2006 the PRPs finalized the site Risk Assessment, and are currently working on an FS Report to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives to address site contamination.

Cleanup Progress

Earlier removals of contaminated drums have reduced risks at the Evor Phillips site. Site cleanup is now in a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site. In addition, EPA has determined that the site does not pose an immediate threat to the surrounding community or the environment while interim remedial work and further site studies are taking place.

In 1983, the State of New Jersey excavated 30 to 40 drums and removed them from the site. Excavations initiated in January 1996 by some of the PRPs unearthed over 1,000 buried waste containers in six areas of the Site through May 1997. From February to April 1997, EPA conducted a removal action which included erecting a containment structure over a 10,000 square foot area of the Site and excavating 34 drums and approximately 300 laboratory-sized containers. PRP excavation activities, on hold during EPA work, were completed in May 1997. Following completion of excavation, a total of twelve post-excavation samples were collected at depths of 7 feet and 11 feet and the results of the laboratory analyses on those samples showed no substantial contamination above background. All wastes generated by cleanup activities to date have been characterized and disposed of off-site at permitted facilities. A groundwater treatment plant has been constructed at the Site and extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater with discharge to the POTW was initiated in late 1999.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-4308