

Industrial Latex Corp.

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD981178411

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 09

Bergen

Borough of Wallington

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 6/24/1988

Final Date: 3/30/1989

Deletion Date: 4/21/2003

Site Description

The Industrial Latex Corporation manufactured chemical adhesives, and natural and synthetic rubber compounds from 1951 until 1983. Adhesives were initially formulated using vegetable protein in a solvent base. Solvents utilized in the process included acetone, heptane, hexane, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), methylene chloride, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). To reduce flammability, PCBs were introduced as a fire retardant. In the late 1970s, solvent-based adhesives were replaced by water-based latex adhesives. Intermittent processing of latex compounds continued at the site until October 1983, when all operations ceased. Poor operational procedures and on-site waste disposal practices resulted in widespread areas of surface and subsurface soil contamination. Prompted by numerous complaints from local officials about the misuse of solvents and the dumping of trash and chemicals on the property, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) conducted a site inspection in 1980 and found approximately 250 leaking drums of various chemicals. In addition, NJDEP discovered that VOCs and materials contaminated with PCBs had been disposed of in an on-site sanitary septic system. NJDEP conducted a second site inspection in 1983 and discovered approximately 1,600 drums which were open, leaking, or lying on their sides. Analyses of the drum contents revealed the presence of acetone, hexane, MEK, dimethyl formamide, and TCA. The Industrial Latex Corporation went out of business, and the principals and property owner were determined to not have the financial resources to successfully perform clean up work at the property. The site is located in a residential and industrial area; approximately 10,000 people live within 1/2 mile of the site.

Site Responsibility : This site has been addressed through Federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Soil was contaminated primarily with PCBs. Possible health risks included exposure to PCBs through accidentally ingesting or coming into contact with the contaminated soil.

Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed in two stages: initial actions and long-term remedial actions focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1986, EPA treated or recycled over 130,000 gallons of contaminated liquids, including flammable organic liquids and PCB liquid wastes. In addition, over 1,200 drums and 22 underground tanks were removed from the site. The site was stabilized, which included conducting an inventory of materials on the site, removing shock-sensitive and highly flammable chemicals, and removing 37 truckloads of non-hazardous, combustible trash. EPA destroyed 1,525 shock-sensitive and flammable materials, incinerated off-site 12,048 gallons of flammable PCB solids, and sent 113,050 gallons of non-flammable PCB solids to an off-site landfill. The site was also fenced to limit access to any remaining contamination.

Source Control: EPA initiated a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the Industrial Latex site in June 1989. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in September 1992 that featured: (1) excavation of contaminated soil and treatment by low temperature thermal desorption, followed by backfilling on the site; (2) excavation and off-site disposal of an estimated 600 buried drums; (3) dismantling and off-site disposal of vats and other remaining processing equipment; and (4) demolition and off-site disposal of two buildings on

the site. The cleanup of the site has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase of the cleanup involved the demolition of the buildings and removal of the vats. This first phase was initiated in July 1995 and completed in November 1995. The design for the second phase of the cleanup, the excavation and treatment of the contaminated soil and excavation and off-site disposal of buried drums, was completed in May 1995, however, a lack of funding prevented the start of the soil cleanup. The funding was finally secured in 1997. A contract for Phase 2 was awarded to Environmental Chemical Corporation in August 1998. Field work began in November 1998 and soil treatment was completed in June 2000. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided on-site field oversight of this action.

Ground Water: Because the results of the ground water investigation completed during the RI/FS were inconclusive, the 1992 ROD called for a subsequent investigation. In spring 2000, EPA conducted a final ground water sampling effort at the site to clarify its understanding of the site ground water. None of the site-related chemicals of concern at Industrial Latex were found to be present in the ground water at concentrations above federal and state drinking water standards. Based on these results, a ROD, signed in September 2001, determined that no action was necessary to address ground water at the site.

Cleanup Progress

After completion of the removal action, buildings and soil contaminated with PCBs and various process wastes remained at the site. A remedial action performed in 1995 addressed the building contamination via decontamination, demolition of two buildings (39,400 square feet) and off-site disposal of the building debris. Additionally, 30 process vats were removed and disposed of off site. The soil cleanup was completed in June 2000, and a no action ROD was signed for ground water in September 2001. A Notice of Intent to Delete the site from the National Priorities List (NPL) was published in the Federal Register on December 9, 2002. No comments were received on the proposed deletion, and the site was deleted from the NPL on April 21, 2003. A five year review of the site is not required.

Site Repositories

John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, 92 Hathaway Street, Wallington, NJ 07055