

Former Appliance Park East (Formerly: General Electric Company)

9001 Snowden River Parkway
Columbia, MD 21046
Congressional District 3
EPA ID #: MDD046279311
Last Updated: 12/31/2008

Current Progress at the Site

In 1991, EPA issued a RCRA Corrective Action Permit requiring GE to address any contamination present at the facility. GE has conducted several investigations of site contamination, conducted clean-ups in some areas of the facility, and continues to work closely with EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to complete the requirements of the permit.

Currently GE is performing the following interim measures (short-term actions) to address contaminated soil and ground water at the main source area of the site where the organic solvent trichloroethylene (TCE) was released:

- Continued operation of a groundwater pump and treat system to contain and cleanup volatile organic contaminants (VOCs) present in the groundwater beneath and beyond the southern end of the former Range Building.
- Continued operation of a soil vapor extraction system to clean up subsurface contaminated soils beneath and on the western side of the former Range Building
- Periodic groundwater monitoring to ensure no contamination is traveling off site.

GE submits Quarterly Reports to EPA and MDE to provide current information regarding the status of these interim measures. GE is currently conducting a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to evaluate additional technologies which may help to cleanup this contamination. GE submitted a CMS Report in August 2008. Currently, EPA is reviewing the CMS Report.

Site Description

General Electric built the Appliance Park East plant on a 1,125 acre parcel of land located in Columbia, Maryland. From 1970 to 1990, GE manufactured household appliances, primarily electric ranges and ovens. Of the 1,125 acres originally owned by GE, 440 acres were covered by the RCRA Corrective Action Permit issued by EPA in 1991.

GE discontinued operations in 1990 and sold the majority of the facility to Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD) for redevelopment. GE retained ownership of 21 acres where 3 closed landfills are located. Redevelopment of the site includes, reuse of the original manufacturing buildings by new businesses, construction of a new retail strip mall, restaurants, a multiplex movie theater, residential town homes, and a corporate office park.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3, with assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Contaminants

The main contaminant in soil and groundwater is the organic solvent, trichloroethylene (TCE,) which is mainly found in the soil beneath the former manufacturing building and in the ground water beneath and downgradient of the building. Other contaminants found in ground water include diesel fuel and gasoline. GE cleaned up the gasoline in the 1990's and continues to monitor ground water in the area. GE cleaned up the diesel fuel contamination under the direction of the Maryland Department of the Environment Oil Control Program.

Community Interaction

To update the community on the cleanup progress, GE maintains a mailing list for all interested parties and issues fact sheets as needed. The last public meeting regarding the site was held in 1997 and comments were solicited regarding the on-going corrective action activities.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

Government Contacts

EPA Project Manager

Ms. Barbara Smith - 3LC20
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-5786
Email: smith.barbara@epa.gov

Mr. Amin Yazdanian
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 645
Baltimore, MD 21230-1719
Telephone: (410) 537-3345
Email: ayazdanian@mde.state.md.us

For more information about EPA's corrective action program, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

Facility Contact

Mr. Paul Wm. Hare
Manager, Northeast/Midwest Regions
General Electric Company
319 Great Oaks Boulevard
Albany, NY 12203
Telephone: (518) 862-2713
Paul.Hare@corporate.ge.com