

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

American Recovery Company, Inc.

**1901 Birch Street
Baltimore, MD 21226
Congressional District 2
EPA ID #: MDD074923392
Last Updated: 07/14/2005**

Current Progress at the Site

In the fall of 2001, the former operator, American Recovery Company, Inc. (ARC) began implementing a phased program to confirm the extent of groundwater contamination and determine whether there are continuing sources of contaminants. Two phases of field investigation resulted in the installation and sampling of piezometers, a passive soil gas study, several soil samples, sediment samples and surface water sampling. This work identified two potential source areas for the groundwater contamination identified at the site.

Following the second phase of field work, however, all investigations activities ceased because in May 2003, ARC's parent company, Outsourcing Solutions filed for bankruptcy. As a result, Maryland Department of the Environment obtained access to financial assurance funds that were established under a State RCRA Closure Order. MDE is using the funds to direct a contractor to complete the investigation and EPA is providing technical assistance in this endeavor. In the summer of 2004 MDE installed eight shallow groundwater monitoring wells, four deeper groundwater monitoring wells and collected soil and groundwater samples from the two suspected source areas. These field activities confirmed the general location of two source areas. In 2005 MDE is performing additional characterization of these source areas to determine an appropriate remedy options.

Site Description

Industrial chemical manufacturing operations began on the property prior to 1932 and continued until approximately 1970. From 1970 to 1984, American Recovery, who leased the property from its owner, operated a hazardous waste recycling, treatment and storage facility. During the operating period of this facility, American Recovery performed several general cleanups and partial closure activities. In 1984, in response to repeated violations, the State of Maryland revoked the facility's permit and required the facility to cease operations and submit closure plans. American Recovery conducted final closure activities during 1985 and 1986. In 1988 the State and American Recovery signed a Consent Order which established guidelines for post-closure activities including corrective action. Post-closure monitoring and corrective action investigations were conducted to confirm that closure removed the active sources of contamination. After 1986, the owner of the site leased the property for several years for use as a junk yard and other industrial activities. As of 1999, the site was cleared of most of the junk yard material and is now vacant.

Site Responsibility

RCRA corrective action was initiated at American Recovery under a Maryland Department of the Environment Consent Order. Currently, EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment are overseeing corrective action activities at the site.

Contaminants

Groundwater sampling has detected several volatile organic constituents above drinking water standards including: benzene, methylene chloride, chloroform, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethane, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and vinyl chloride. Also detected were several inorganics including: cadmium, chromium, cobalt, manganese, nickel and vanadium. The plumes appear to extend off-site. Groundwater in this area is not currently used as a drinking water supply.

Community Interaction

There has been no recent community activity.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls have not been implemented at this facility.

Government Contacts

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