Dayco Corp. / L.E. Carpenter Co.

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD002168748

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 11

Morris

Wharton Borough

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 4/1/1985
Final Date: 7/1/1987

Site Description

The Dayco Corp./L.E. Carpenter Company site, located in Wharton Township, covers 14.5-acres, includes buildings, warehouses, and the remnants of disposal areas that are associated with a former vinyl wall covering manufacturing facility. During plant operations, various solid and liquid wastes were disposed of in unlined on-site lagoons, located approximately 20 feet from the Rockaway River. Manufacturing no longer occurs at the site. The site is located in the flood plain of the Rockaway River and is above an aquifer that provides potable water for both Wharton and Dover Townships. The site borders both residential and industrial areas. A residential area borders the site to northwest (Ross Street), and two of Wharton Township's public supply wells are approximately 2,600 feet from the site. Approximately 27,000 people live within a 3-mile radius.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal, state, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The ground water at the site is contaminated with various compounds, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as xylene and ethyl benzene, and the semi-volatile organic compound (SVOC) bis-2-ethylhexlphthalate. Some small amounts of site-related contaminants have been found in Rockaway River sediment samples, and in a drainage channel. The contaminated groundwater could adversely affect the health of people if accidentally swallowed, inhaled or contacted.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on clean up of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1982, Dayco Corp./L.E. Carpenter Company removed heavily-contaminated soils and chemical storage tanks for off-site disposal.

Entire Site: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) was directly overseeing Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)-performed actions at the site, with EPA assistance. EPA assumed the lead for the site in Spring 2008.

NJDEP issued administrative orders covering various on-site activities in 1982 and 1986. Pursuant to the first order, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) installed monitoring wells and constructed a floating product recovery system in 1982. In 1985, the PRP excavated and removed approximately 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated sludge from an impoundment. In addition, as part of NJDEP-approved closure activities, the PRP removed sixteen above- and below-ground storage tanks and associated contaminated soils.

In accordance with the second order, the PRP began a site-wide remedial investigation (RI) in 1986 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The RI, which was conducted in several phases, was completed in 1992. In 1993, the PRP completed a feasibility study (FS) that identified and evaluated remedial alternatives. NJDEP issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on April 18, 1994, calling for the excavation of soil hot spots, including lead-contamined soil above 600 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg); off-site disposal of the excavated soils; floating product removal via an active removal system; ground water extraction and biological treatment; re-infiltration of the treated ground water; vegetative soil cover;

and property restrictions.

Although the ROD called for the excavation and off-site removal of soils contaminated with lead with levels greater than 600 mg/kg, in April 2004, the PRP submitted a proposal to, instead, excavate the lead-contaminated soils down to the residential cleanup level of 400 mg/kg, with off-site disposal. In addition, the PRP proposed to excavate a large area containing light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL or floating product) and LNAPL-saturated smear zone soils, as well as a small PCB-contaminated area, with off-site disposal. Lastly, the PRP proposed to address the residually-contaminated ground water that will remain after the soils have been excavated via monitored natural attenuation (MNA). The new proposal for excavating the LNAPL was more aggressive than the remedy that had been implemented since the ROD, which included a passive collection system of well-points. EPA and the NJDEP approved the revised approach for the soils and floating product.

In December 2004, NJDEP and EPA approved the PRP's design plans for the revised remedial approach. Excavation of the contaminated soils, LNAPL, and LNAPL-contaminated smear zone soils and off-site disposal was performed between January and June 2005. Approximately 46,521 tons of contaminated soils and floating product were excavated and removed off site for disposal.

In 2007, the PRP installed new monitoring wells and implemented a post-remediation monitoring plan for the excavation area to determine if the level of residual ground water contamination is amenable to MNA. The MNA evaluation is currently underway. In June 2007, NJDEP requested that the PRP develop an aggressive cleanup approach for a small VOC- and SVOC-contaminated hot spot area. In July 2009, EPA issued an order for the PRP to continue the MNA evaluation and to undertake the cleanup of the hot spot area and another area of the site with residual soil contamination. The field work for this effort began in November 2009 and is expected to be completed by Spring 2010. This work is being performed under EPA oversight.

Cleanup Progress

Initial Actions included the removal of 16 storage tanks and the off-site disposal of a total of 5,341 cubic yards of contaminated soil, which reduced the potential for exposure to contaminants at the site. A free product recovery system was installed in 1982, upgraded in 1991, and replaced with a new system in December 1997, when the former systems showed diminishing returns. The recovery system has removed more than 14,185 gallons of liquids, which included approximately 3,277 gallons of floating product. An underground storage tank was discovered in Spring 2004 and was subsequently removed.

Approximately 46,521 tons of contaminated soils and floating product were excavated and removed off site for disposal as follows: 9,292 tons of lead-contaminated soil; 2,727 tons of PCB- contaminated soils; 450 tons of process waste; and 34,052 tons of LNAPL smear zone soils.

Site Repositories

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, New York 10007-1866 NJDEP, 401 E. State St., Trenton, NJ 08625-0402