

Denzer & Schafer X-Ray Company

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD046644407

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 03

Ocean

Bayville

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Deletion Date: 12/30/1998

Site Description

The 5-acre Denzer & Schafer X-Ray Company site was involved in the reclamation of silver from both microfilm and X-ray negatives. Contamination occurred due to such practices as the discharge of the stripping solutions to the sanitary septic system. Microfilm processing waste from a nearby facility also has been disposed of in the site's septic tanks. This means of disposal was used from 1974 through 1981. Other identified sources of contamination included the stockpiling of shredded and stripped film and, prior to 1974, the incineration of the film waste. The sanitary septic tank currently is filled with sand. The underlying Cohansey Aquifer is contaminated with immobile lead adjacent to the abandoned septic system. The aquifer supplies drinking water to residential and public water supply wells serving approximately 25,500 area residents. The site is near the coastline and close to Potters Creek and Barnegat Bay.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and State actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The initial sampling events conducted during the remedial investigation showed that the groundwater was contaminated with heavy metals including arsenic, chromium, lead, and mercury, as well as VOCs including chloroform and toluene. Carbon disulfide and vinyl acetate were detected in some sediment samples. Cadmium was the only chemical detected at a significant concentration when sampling was conducted at 13 soil boring locations. However, subsequent groundwater sampling conducted through 1995 demonstrated that volatile organics degraded and/or dissipated to levels that no longer pose a significant health risk. This sampling was done using the latest low-flow micropurge techniques. Comparison of the results to previous sampling events demonstrated that the high levels of metals in the past were due to mobilization of soil particles in the saturated zone rather than actual contamination in the groundwater. Aside from three samples that showed lead levels above Federal Drinking Water Standards adjacent to the source area, there are no other metals present at levels that represent a significant risk. The lead adjacent to the source area is immobile.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed with a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

A removal action was also conducted after the owner abandoned the facility

Response Action Status

Entire Site: In 1987, the State initiated a site investigation to determine the extent of groundwater contamination and other contaminants of concern. The study, completed in late 1993, identified the extent of contamination at the site and alternative technologies for the cleanup. Representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and EPA have evaluated the potential remedial approaches for the site and have concluded that low levels of contamination in the groundwater no longer pose a significant risk to human health and the environment. Any residual groundwater contamination (involving lead) appears to be limited to a small area adjacent to the source area and is not mobile. Therefore, no action with groundwater monitoring was the proposed alternative. The Proposed Plan was presented at a public meeting on July 20, 1995. Public comments were solicited through August 7, 1995. A final decision, based on the Administrative Record, the Proposed Plan, public comments and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's comments was made by EPA's Regional Administrator. The Record of Decision was signed on September 29, 1995 for No Action with Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring. In January 1998, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection established a Classification Exception Area (CEA) on the site and the adjacent property to the

east. Any potable wells installed within the CEA must be screened below 90 feet to avoid collecting any contaminated groundwater. The Notice of Intent to Delete was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1998. The Final Deletion Notice was published in the Federal Register on December 29, 1998.

Cleanup Progress

After adding this site to the NPL, the EPA performed preliminary investigations and determined that no immediate actions were required at the Denzer & Schafer X-Ray Company site while investigations leading to the selection of final cleanup remedies were taking place.

In March of 1996, NJDEP requested that EPA evaluate the site for a Removal Action based on the fact that the company was abandoned by the owner. In April, 1996, EPA determined that as a result of hazardous materials improperly stored, the site posed an imminent and substantial threat to public health and the environment. The removal action began on April 24, 1996 and was concluded on September 27, 1996. It included the removal of 7,000 gallons of caustic stripping solution and approximately 36 drums of hazardous substances. Also, the underground storage tank was pumped out, excavated and removed. All materials were transported to approved off-site facilities for disposal.

Site Repositories

Berkeley Township Library, 42 Station Rd., Bayville, N.J. 08721

Berkeley Twp. Municipal Bldg., P.O.Box B, Pinewald-Keswick Rd., Bayville, N.J. 08721