Preferred Plating Corporation

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980768774

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 03

Suffolk

Babylon

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/15/1984
Final Date: 6/10/1986

Site Description

The Preferred Plating Corporation site is located at 32 Allen Boulevard in Farmingdale, NY. The property is 3/4 acres in size and was used for metal plating operations from 1951 until 1976, at which time the company filed for bankruptcy. The primary activities at the site included chemically treating metal parts to increase their corrosion resistance and to provide them with a more cohesive base for painting. The plating processes included degreasing, cleaning, and surface finishing of metal parts. These processes involved the use of various chemicals and resulted in the generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Untreated wastewater, produced by rinsing the metal parts between each process, was discharged to four concrete leaching pits directly behind the original building. The leaching pits had been severely cracked and were leaking, allowing discharges into the groundwater. The property was subsequently sold, and in 1982, the new owner backfilled the leaching pits and constructed a building over them. An automobile repair shop and other businesses now occupy the site. There are approximately 4,500 people within 1 mile of the site. Approximately 15,000 people get their drinking water from public supply wells within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Sampling of the groundwater conducted subsequent to the remediation of the soils indicates that the levels of contaminants in the groundwater have decreased significantly. Although exposure to contaminated groundwater by drinking or coming into direct contact with contaminated groundwater still presents a slight health risk, this potential risk has decreased significantly since the completion of the source removal. In addition, residents obtain their drinking water from public supply wells which are routinely tested to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two long-term remedial phases, focusing on on-site soils and on-site groundwater.

Response Action Status

On-site Soils: The EPA conducted a study into the nature and extent of soil contamination underlying the Preferred Plating property. A Record of Decision (ROD), selecting on-site excavation and off-site treatment of soils contaminated with heavy metals and low levels of organics, was signed on September 28, 1992. The remedial action, which was implemented by the PRP, began in April 1994 and was completed in May 1994.

Groundwater Contamination: EPA installed eight on-site and two off-site wells to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at the site. The groundwater remedy selected in the 1989 Record of Decision involved a pump and treat technology. The design for the groundwater remedy was completed in March 1992. Construction of the remedy was delayed to first allow for the removal of the source area underlying the on-site building. The very restricted on-site space could not accommodate simultaneous construction activities. After completing the remediation of the source area in May 1994, EPA conducted a round of groundwater sampling in July 1994 which indicated that groundwater contaminant levels had declined significantly. EPA chose to continue monitoring to evaluate whether the groundwater quality would continue to improve due to source remediation. Two additional rounds of sampling in May 1995 and August 1996 indicated a continued decrease in contaminant levels. In September 1997, based on the significant decrease in the levels of contaminants in the groundwater and a decrease in the non-carcinogenic risk levels associated with the levels of contaminants in groundwater, EPA issued a No Further Action/Natural Attenuation ROD amendment to address the low levels of cadmium still present in the groundwater. As part of the 1997 ROD amendment,

annual groundwater monitoring will be conducted to demonstrate that the amended remedy remains protective. Further sampling conducted annually from 1998 - 2005 continued to show a steady decline in cadmium concentrations. Ongoing annual groundwater monitoring (from 2005 - 2008) continues to show the presence of cadmium at levels above MCLs. In 2007 and 2008, the EPA performed additional investigatory activities to assess the presence of cadmium in groundwater. Specifically, soil sampling activities were performed in September 2007. Furthermore, additional groundwater monitoring wells were installed at and downgradient of the site. These new wells, along with the pre-existing groundwater monitoring wells associated with the site were sampled between February 19 and 21, 2008. An evaluation of this groundwater monitoring data does reflect the presence of cadmium in the groundwater above MCLs, but the higher cadmium concentrations were restricted to a specific area.

Upgradient Groundwater: A potentially responsible party conducted a remedial investigation (RI) into the nature and extent of potential groundwater contamination upgradient of the site to determine if there were any upgradient sources contributing to the groundwater contamination. The RI was completed in July 1993. The remedial investigation concluded that the levels of contaminants detected in groundwater upgradient of the site did not pose a significant threat to human health or the environment and that remediation was not appropriate. A ROD, selecting a "No Action" remedy, was signed on September 24, 1993.

Site Facts: The EPA sent Notice Letters to the parties potentially responsible for the site contamination in 1988, but received no reply. A Special Notice Letter was issued to an additional party in 1990 for the off-site groundwater contamination. An Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and this potentially responsible party was signed in late 1990, requiring the party to investigate the upgradient groundwater portion of the off-site contamination. In the summer of 1993, the EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to the owners of the Preferred Plating site, requiring them to implement the soil remediation called for in the September 1992 ROD.

Cleanup Progress

(Construction Complete)

The excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 1500 tons of contaminated soils/sediments from the source area, which was completed in May 1994, significantly reduced the potential for cross contamination of the groundwater. This conclusion is supported by monitoring data that shows the significant decrease in contaminant concentrations in the underlying groundwater. Groundwater sampling conducted annually from 1998 - 2005 continued to show a steady decline in cadmium concentrations. In 2007 and 2008, the EPA performed additional investigatory activities including soil sampling, the installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, and additional groundwater monitoring. No further construction activities are anticipated for the site. EPA completed the second “Five-Year Review” in September 2007, to ensure that the No Further Action/Natural Attenuation groundwater remedy remains protective. The Five-Year Review concluded, based on annual groundwater monitoring data collected since 1997, that the site is protective of human health and the environment.

Site Repositories

West Babylon Library, 211 Route 109, West Babylon, N.Y. 11704; and EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway-18th Floor, New York, NY 10007