

# Liberty Industrial Finishing

## New York

EPA ID#: NYD000337295

### EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 03

Nassau  
Farmingdale

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

## Site Description

The Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site includes a thirty-acre property located at 55 Motor Avenue in the Village of Farmingdale, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York. The Site was used for airplane parts manufacturing and associated metal finishing activities during World War II and the Korean War. In the late 1950's, the Site was converted to an industrial park and was used for a variety of industrial operations including metal plating and finishing and fiberglass product manufacturing. Since the 1980's, the Site has been used for light manufacturing and warehousing. A groundwater plume contaminated with organic and inorganic substances underlies the 30-acre former industrial area and extends approximately a mile to the south (designated as Plume A). Portions of the Massapequa Preserve, a nature preserve located about one-half mile to the south, are also contaminated from the past activities and will be addressed as part of the Superfund cleanup. A separate plume of organic contamination, designated as Plume B, originates to the north of the Liberty site and migrates in a southerly direction before commingling with a portion of Plume A.

Site Responsibility : This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions. In August 2004, a Consent Judgment between the United States and responsible parties became effective. The Consent Judgment requires the responsible parties to implement the primary remedial action described below. Additional studies are being undertaken by federal and State authorities in connection with Plume B.

## Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater and soils are contaminated with heavy metals including cadmium and chromium and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and tetrachloroethene. There are no private drinking wells in the vicinity of the Site. People living near the Site obtain their drinking water from local water utilities; the water utilities routinely test their supplies to ensure compliance with State and federal drinking water standards. In 1998, the PRPs installed "sentinel" wells, under EPA oversight, between the Liberty site and drinking water wells of the local water districts. These sentinel wells serve as an early warning system should any plume of contamination migrate close to the well fields. Periodic monitoring of the sentinel wells, since 1998, by the local water districts, has not detected any Site-related contamination.

Risk characterizations conducted as part of EPA's initial remedial investigation (RI) and supplemental RI concluded that the Site does not pose current-use risk to Site workers, nearby residents and those who frequent the adjacent Ellsworth Allen Park and the nearby Massapequa Nature Preserve. Threats posed by elevated concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils adjacent to current and former electrical transformers were eliminated in early 1996 through a removal action described below.

## Cleanup Approach

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

### Response Action Status:

Immediate Actions: Several cleanup efforts have been undertaken by the PRPs for the Liberty site. In 1978 and 1987 under administrative orders issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), PRPs removed contaminated soil and sludge from industrial waste disposal basins.

In 1994, pursuant to an order issued by EPA and under EPA oversight, PRPs for the Liberty site performed a cleanup

action which removed soils contaminated with PCBs and which eliminated the current human health risks posed by the Liberty site.

In 1998, EPA selected an interim groundwater remedy, the objective of which was to prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating beyond the boundary of the Liberty property until the comprehensive soil and groundwater remedy could be implemented. This work was initially implemented starting in 1998 by PRPs pursuant to an EPA administrative order and has, since 2004, been continued by the PRPs pursuant to the Consent Judgement settlement described below. After design and testing, the PRPs constructed separate treatment systems to address both the organic and inorganic contamination in January 2001. However, various operational problems initially prevented the interim groundwater treatment system from continuous operation and effective treatment of groundwater contamination. As a result, in January 2002, EPA directed the PRPs to begin the process of converting the on-Site system into a conventional pump and treat system. This conversion was completed in June 2004, since which time the existing on-Site groundwater remediation system has been operating at its full design capacity in effectively treating both organic and inorganic contamination.

As required by an EPA order issued pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act, in late 1999, the owners of the Liberty site removed approximately 1.5 million pounds of PCB-contaminated shredded auto-fluff that had been stored at the Liberty site.

In March of 2002, EPA issued another cleanup order to the owners of the Liberty site requiring them to address below ground features, some in a number of World War II-era buildings, on a ten-acre portion of the Liberty site. These features include sumps, vaults, drains, pipes, underground leaching chambers, underground storage tanks as well as a sanitary leaching field. The order also required the property owners to remove a contaminated mound of soil located on the western portion of the Site. The soil mound was removed in March 2003, and the work to address the underground features began in July of 2004 and is expected to be completed during the Spring of 2006.

Comprehensive Site-Wide Remedy: In the 1980's, the NYSDEC was the lead agency for the Liberty site and directed the early Site investigation and early cleanup activities. In 1990, EPA assumed the role of the lead governmental agency for environmental investigation and remediation of the Liberty site. Between 1991 and 1997, EPA conducted a remedial investigation to define the nature and extent of contamination and a feasibility study to identify alternatives to address contamination. Additional investigatory activities were carried out by several of the PRPs at the Site under EPA oversight pursuant to an administrative order issued by EPA in 1997.

In April 2001, the supplemental RI/FS report which describes the nature and extent of contamination in Site soils, groundwater, and contamination in pond sediments in Massapequa Creek downstream of the Site, and in Plume B, as well as an evaluation of alternatives for comprehensive Site cleanup was released by EPA. In July 2001, EPA released a Proposed Plan that outlined the Agency's preferred long-term comprehensive remedy for the Liberty site.

In March 2002, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the selection of a comprehensive remedial action for the Site which EPA estimates will cost more than \$34 million in present dollars. The primary remedial action, estimated to cost nearly \$32 million, includes excavation and off-Site disposal of 73,100 cubic yards of contaminated soils, construction and operation of a conventional pump-and-treat system to address on-Site and off-Site groundwater, and excavation and off-Site disposal of 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated pond sediments at the Massapequa Preserve.

Implementation of primary remedial action is being performed by the responsible parties, under EPA oversight, pursuant to the Consent Judgment. The Remedial Design phase for the primary remedial action at the Site began in May 2004 and is expected to be completed during the Spring of 2007. Upon completion of the Remedial Design phase, the Remedial Action phase will commence.

NYSDEC has listed the "Farmingdale Dry Cleaner" site on its Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in New York State. This NYSDEC site is located about one-half mile to the north of the Liberty Site and is suspected to be the source of Plume B which is impacting the Liberty site. NYSDEC has begun an investigation of the Farmingdale Dry Cleaner site with resources from the New York State Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund. NYSDEC has advised EPA that they anticipate completion of their investigation in the Spring of 2007.

In addition, in February and early March 2006, EPA conducted a Phase I vapor intrusion investigation, which involved the collection of air samples at fifteen homes in the vicinity of the Site, and at the Woodward Parkway elementary school in Farmingdale, New York, in order for EPA to determine if vapors associated with contamination at the Site were entering those properties. In April 2006, EPA conducted follow-up sampling of indoor air at two of the homes and at the school. EPA is evaluating the sampling results in order to determine whether further investigation and remedial activity is necessary to protect the health of the occupants.

Additional Site Facts and Information:

PRPs

During the 1940's and 1950's, certain of the facilities at the Liberty site were owned and operated by the Liberty Aircraft Products Company, a private corporation engaged in the production of aircraft parts. And, during World War II, certain of the facilities were owned by wartime agencies of the federal government. After the war years, the Site was converted to industrial park uses and later to light industrial and warehouse uses. The Site became contaminated through these industrial uses and the parties responsible for the contamination at the Site include the United States government as successor to the wartime agencies, private parties that succeeded to the Liberty Aircraft Products Corporation, other industrial companies that operated at the Site, and the owners of the Liberty site. EPA has identified 12 private parties that are extant and financially viable and two government agencies, the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration, that are the successors to the wartime agencies.

In a Consent Judgment settlement that became effective in August 2004, all of these PRPs, including the successors to the Liberty Aircraft Products Corporation, the federal agencies and the current owners of the Site, agreed to implement the \$32 million primary remedial action at the Liberty site.

#### New Public Park and Enhanced Remedy

Following the issuance of the Proposed Plan in July 2001, the Town of Oyster Bay announced its intention to acquire a fifteen-acre portion of the former industrial facility for expansion of the adjacent Ellsworth Allen Park for community recreational activities. In June 2003, EPA entered into a prospective purchaser agreement with the Town which released the Town from Superfund liability in contemplation of their future ownership and which would discharge existing and prospective Superfund liens against the parkland in exchange for a substantial payment of money from the Town to EPA which may be used for, among other things, cleanup activities or reimbursement of EPA costs at the Site. In September 2003, the Town acquired the 15-acre portion of the Liberty site. Following the cleanup, the Town will construct the recreational facilities and establish the new community park.

Prior to the Town's announced plans for the additional parkland, EPA had assumed, for purposes of remedy selection, that the Site would continue to be used for commercial or industrial purposes. The planned new parkland use, and other considerations including widespread support by community members and their elected representatives, caused EPA to re-evaluate the remedy to be selected for soils at the Liberty site. EPA's selected soil remedy included an expanded soil excavation at an estimated additional cost of more than \$4 million dollars.

## Cleanup Progress

### Site Repositories

The administrative record file, which contains the information upon which the selection of the remedial action in the ROD is based, and other Site information are available at the following locations:

Farmingdale Public Library 116 Merritt Road Farmingdale, New York 11735 Telephone: (516) 249-9090

United States Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th Floor New York, NY 10007-1866

For Additional Information, please contact: Community Involvement Coordinator, Cecilia Echols, at 1-800-346-5009, or Remedial Project Manager, Lorenzo Thantu, at (212) 637-4240.