

**MD-125
Talbot County**

**NOBLE MOTOR REBUILDERS
Easton, Maryland**

Early 1940s	Nobel Motor Rebuilders began operations as an auto and truck engine rebuilder.
1962	Settling tank and separator system installed.
1982	<i>Potential Hazardous Waste Site Identification and Preliminary Assessment</i> form completed.
1986	The Borrer Corporation purchased Noble Motor Rebuilders. Borrer installed four shallow monitoring wells.
1990	Four more shallow monitoring wells installed. Two more wells installed at a later unknown date.
1991	On-site groundwater sampling performed.
1993	On-site groundwater sampling performed.
1996	MDE's HWED recommended installation of a deep well. The operational buildings on site were demolished and removed.
1999	MDE learned of five unsecured monitoring wells on the site. MDE conducted a <i>Site Survey</i> .

Site Location

The Noble Motor Rebuilders site is located at 350 North Aurora Street, Easton, Maryland. It is situated in central Talbot County in the Eastern Shore subdivision of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The 2.5-acre site is the location of a former engine rebuilding facility. The area surrounding the Noble Motor Rebuilders site is predominantly a commercial area of Easton, although an apartment building is located adjacent to the north side of the site and an elementary school is located immediately east of the site. The Noble Motor Rebuilders site is a vacant lot. All that remains from the engine rebuilding operation is a concrete slab that once served as the foundation for the buildings that housed the business.

Site History

Noble Motor Rebuilders rebuilt and remanufactured auto and truck engines on the site beginning in the early 1940s. State regulatory activities did not occur at the facility until the late 1970s. Through the engine cleaning and rebuilding process, Noble Motor Rebuilders generated both hazardous and non-hazardous liquid and solid waste. The solid waste included settled solids such as grit and sand from engines, metal particles, paint residue, grease and oil, pieces of gaskets, and other gasket-related fiber materials.

The method of liquid waste and wastewater disposal prior to 1962 is unknown. In 1962, a settling tank and separator system were installed to handle the waste generated on site. The overflow and (or) discharge from the settling tank and separator system entered the Easton storm drain system. Sludges and other waste solids were initially stored in on-site collection pits. When the pits became full, the wastes were removed and stockpiled on the site near the site entrance. The wastes were eventually hauled from the site.

Early documents show that Noble Motor Rebuilders was a division of Beasley Industries, Inc. In 1986, the Borrer Corporation purchased Noble Motor Rebuilders. The site is currently owned by Dominion Homes, Inc.

Environmental Investigations

From 1981 through 1986, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted a series of inspections of the Noble Motor Rebuilders facility regarding the issue of controlled hazardous substances. A *Potential Hazardous Waste Site Identification and Preliminary Assessment* form completed in 1982 reported that EP Toxicity testing determined the paint and wastewater sludge (solids) wastes were not toxic. During the 1981 to 1986 period, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene discovered that the company was using spaulk and Build Solv, two engine-degreasing chemicals. The sludge material that was generated from engine cleaning was determined to be a controlled hazardous substance. In 1985, some contaminated soils were removed from the property, although the amount is unknown.

In 1986, the Borrer Corporation was required to conduct an in-depth groundwater investigation on the site property. As a result, the company contracted with the Handex Corporation to install four shallow monitoring wells. In 1990, the Handex Corporation installed four additional shallow monitoring wells. Sample results from 1991 revealed groundwater contaminated with 1,2-dichloroethene (130 micrograms

per liter, ug/1), trichloroethene (42 ug/1) and tetrachloroethene (140 ug/1). Two more shallow monitoring wells were eventually installed at the site, although the date is unknown.

Results from 1993 on-site groundwater sampling revealed similar concentrations of the same contaminants detected in 1991. In addition, chloromethane was detected in an on-site well at a concentration of 144 ug/1.

In 1996, while continuing to monitor site related activities, the Department of the Environment's (MDE) Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division (HWED) recommended installation of a deep well on site and continued sampling of all on-site wells on a regular basis. In late 1996, the operational buildings on the Borrer Corporation property were demolished and removed. No deep monitoring well was ever installed.

A site reconnaissance conducted by MDE's HWED in April 1999 revealed five unsecured monitoring wells on the site. Ten flush-mounted monitoring wells reportedly existed at one time, but some appeared to have been covered with concrete and debris when the buildings were demolished. After several inquiries by HWED into the status of the site's groundwater, the Borrer Corporation located four on-site monitoring wells in early 1999 and sampled three of them. The fourth well was obstructed. The HWED stated a further site evaluation was to be undertaken, including locating and sampling the remaining monitoring wells.

In August 1999, MDE conducted a *Site Survey* of the Noble Motor Rebuilders site and concluded that the soil and groundwater pathways are of potential concern at the site.

The company conducted a site investigation in July 2000 that included locating and repairing all monitoring wells, measuring depths to groundwater, collecting groundwater samples for analysis, and prepared a *Site Investigation Report* dated October 18, 2000. Tetrachloroethene was detected in three samples at a concentration below the Maximum Contaminant Level of 5 ug/1 and in one well at a concentration of 10.2 ug/l. Trichloroethene was detected in two samples below the Maximum Contaminant Level.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned. The designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

Arthur O'Connell, Chief	Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division Maryland Department of the Environment	410-537-3493
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