



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Hoffman/Venable Cleaners

Site Description

The Hoffman/Venable Cleaners site (HV) is a 0.55-acre property located at 206 Williams Street in Berlin, Worcester County. The site is listed on Worcester County tax map 300 parcel 1607 and is situated at 38.326558 degrees north latitude and -75.217296 degrees west longitude. The HV site is located in a mixed residential commercial area within the municipal limits of the Town of Berlin.

Site History

The HV site was identified as a long term dry cleaning site in MDE's 2008 Dry Cleaner Initiative document. The purpose of the Dry Cleaner Initiative is to identify former and existing dry cleaner locations to determine whether environmental impacts require further assessment and/or remediation. The HV site has been operating as a dry cleaner plant at the same location since 1924, using petroleum based dry cleaning solvents.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

The Oil Control Program at MDE investigated leaking underground storage tanks at the site in 1999. Some soil contamination was identified in the investigation. Oil Control Program records indicate that underground storage tanks were closed in place or removed from the site in 1978, 1987, 1988, 1997 and 1999. In February of 2012, MDE conducted a Site Inspection (SI) at the property which included collecting soil and groundwater samples for CLP analysis. Ethylbenzene and naphthalene exceeded regulatory levels in one groundwater sample but levels of other analytes in soil and groundwater samples were within regulatory guidelines.

Current Status

The Town of Berlin has a public water supply system that draws from deep aquifers not in the vicinity of this site. MDE recommends that no further investigation is warranted by EPA.



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