



Carvel Hall

What You Need to Know

The Carvel Hall site manufactured the world famous Carvel Hall steak knife and other metal cutlery from 1951 until May 1995. The plant reopened in 1998 and manufacturing operations ceased in September 2006. A prospective purchaser is proposing to redevelop the property for offices, a solar farm and a chicken manure processing facility.

Site Location

The flat 23.32-acre Carvel Hall site is located at 4251 Crisfield Highway approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Crisfield City limits in southwestern Somerset County. The site is found on the Somerset County tax map 5064 parcel 134 and lies adjacent to the Johnson Creek wetlands. The coordinates for the site are approximately 37° 59' 59.11" north and 75° 49' 46.59" east. The main manufacturing facility resides within a fenced approximate 8.5-acre area and an approximate 1.5-acre pond is located approximately 300-feet east of the facility.

Site History

The original Carvel Hall facility, known as the Chas. D. Briddell manufacturing plant, operated on Main Street in Crisfield from 1920 until a fire destroyed that plant in March 1951. The facility was relocated to the current location at 4251 Crisfield Highway. Production of the Carvel Hall steak knife and other cutlery types continued. The Towle Silver Company purchased the plant in 1965 and the facility was renamed Carvel Hall and operated until May 1995. In June 1995, CHI International purchased the facility and reopened in October 1998. In June 2006, CHI International transferred the property to Syratech Acquisition Corporation, Inc. In late 2006, Aerospace Manufacturing, Inc. operated at the site until September 2008.

The Carvel Hall facility operated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act handler identification number MDD022570923 and under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System identification number MDP00000002. The facility was also permitted by MDE's Air and Radiation Management Administration. In June 1981, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued a "warning notice" for a leaking 55-gallon drum of chromium waste. In October 1986, MDE issued a Site Complaint for evaporating and treating plating waste without a permit and storage of controlled hazardous substances in unmarked drums and unsealed drums. On October 29, 1986, the facility was issued Consent Order C-O-87-091.

On September 30, 2004, The Somerset County Economic Development Commission applied to MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program and then withdrew on May 5, 2005.

Environmental Investigations

In May 1990, Tenera, L.P conducted an environmental investigation that identified elevated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the soil, elevated levels of VOCs and metals in the groundwater and tetrachloroethene in a surface water sample.



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In July 1990, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration's Enforcement Program sampled five domestic wells along Crackertown Road that are situated cross gradient from the site. Results from the chemical analyses of those samples did not identify contamination.

In February 1991, Geraghty and Miller, Inc. prepared a *Results of Site Investigation and Recommended Remedial Measures Report* for Carvel Hall. Seven soil samples were analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and seven concurrent piezometers and three existing monitoring wells were sampled for VOCs and TPH. Only trans-1,2-dichloroethene was detected in one monitoring well.

In April 2011, MDE completed a Brownfield Site Assessment (BSA) for the City of Crisfield. The BSA identified elevated levels of metals in the soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment, as well as chlorinated solvents in the groundwater. Based on the results of the BSA, MDE recommended that the City of Crisfield prepare a Universal Environmental Covenant to restrict the property to commercial or industrial purposes, prohibit the use of the groundwater for any reason, to ensure all future intrusive activities be conducted in accordance with an OSHA compliant health and safety plan and all soil and groundwater excavated, pumped or otherwise removed from the property be tested, properly characterized and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

In May 2014, Bay Associates Environmental, Inc. completed chromium abatement of the Carvel Hall facility for the City of Crisfield.

In August 2017, Rauch, Inc., conducted an environmental investigation under the oversight of MDE's Land Restoration Program (LRP) to determine the current conditions of the known hazardous waste contamination remaining on site. Results of that investigation, as well as supplemental investigation at the request of LRP, identified elevated levels of arsenic and manganese in soil samples collected primarily near an above-ground storage tank (AST) in the back of the facility, elevated metals and VOCs in the existing monitoring well samples, elevated metals in the sediment near the center of the onsite pond and in the surface water collected near shore. Indoor air sampling did not identify contamination above benchmark values.

Current Status

The current proposed redevelopment of the Carvel Hall plant into offices and the grounds into a solar farm and chicken manure processing facility is proposed by Clean Bay Ventures, Inc. and is currently under debate between the Crisfield Town Council and its residents.