



Facts About...

Plantronics, Inc.
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Location

The 4.65-acre Plantronics, Inc. property is located at the intersection of Hayward Road and Thomas Johnson Drive in Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. The site is bounded to the north by Lot 26A, which is currently occupied by the Frederick County Board of Education offices and was previously owned by Frederick Electronics. The property is bounded to the north and west by industrial facilities and to the south and east by undeveloped agricultural land.

Site History

Lot 27 currently contains a parking lot for the adjacent Board of Education building. The property was historically used for agricultural purposes including a residence. The parking lot was constructed in the 1970s.

The former Frederick Electronics building is located on the adjacent property to the north (Lot 26A) and was used to manufacture vending machines from 1963 to 1965. From 1965 to 1986, the facility manufactured telecommunications equipment including electroplating and painting operations. From 1986 until 1989, the facility was used for the design, assembly and shipping communications equipment. The property was sold to the Frederick Board of Education in 1990.

Metals (including tin, lead, copper, nickel, and gold) and organic solvents (including 1,1,1-trichloroethane, xylene, toluene and freon) were reportedly used during the electroplating process from 1965 to 1986. Prior to 1967, process wastewater was reportedly discharged to the ground surface. From 1967 to 1974, process rinse water and other waste was discharged to a 15 to 20 feet deep dry well located near the northwest corner of the main building. Beginning in 1974, wastewater was drummed for off-site disposal while the discharge of process rinse waters to the dry well continued until 1978. In 1978, a wastewater treatment system was installed and the effluent was discharged to the municipal sanitary sewer system.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

An environmental assessment of the property was completed in 1993. Five wells were present on the property that had supplied rinse water from 1977 to 1982. No environmental investigations have been completed on Lot 27 with the exception of one sample collected in 1993 from a former water supply well in the southeastern portion of the property. A groundwater sample collected from a well located on the western edge of Lot 27, identified trichloroethene at 17.9 ug/L.

In 2005, two environmental assessments included the collection of surface and subsurface soil and groundwater samples from beneath the property. Groundwater samples confirmed the presence of trichloroethene (8 ug/L) beneath the southeastern corner of the property.

Current Status

On December 20, 2004, Plantronics, Inc. submitted an application for Lot 27 to the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) seeking a No Further Requirements Determination (NFRD) for commercial use of the property. The property was approved for participation in the VCP and a NFRD was issued to Plantronics, Inc. on November 3, 2005. The NFRD allows for use of the property for restricted commercial or restricted industrial purposes and prohibits the use of the groundwater beneath the property for any purpose.

Contact

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