

**Gibson-Homans Facility
Rosedale, Maryland
Baltimore County
(MD-316)**

Site Location

The Gibson-Homans site is located about two miles east of Baltimore City in Rosedale, Baltimore County, Maryland. The facility is situated on approximately 3.5 acres of land located at 1101 Hanslik Avenue 300 feet south of Pulaski Highway. The site owner is Baltimore Ennis Land Company, Inc. (BELCI); Gibson-Homans formerly leased the property.

Site History

The Gibson-Homans facility, which specialized in the manufacture of caulks, sealants and adhesives, began operations at the site in 1956. Raw materials used in the production of these products included inert materials such as plastic and aluminum and solvents such as mineral spirits and isobutyl alcohol. Although ownership of the facility has changed a number of times since 1956, operations at the facility remained the same.

At least eighteen underground storage tanks (USTs) and aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) were in use at the site previously. Many of these were either abandoned in place or removed under Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) oversight.

Environmental Investigations

MDE became involved in this site through reports that the site had leaky USTs containing unknown materials. To address this issue, BELCI contracted with Dames & Moore to conduct a Preliminary Site Assessment in September 1987. The study indicated that the groundwater was contaminated with low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A BELCI Groundwater and Soil Assessment Report (September 1989) confirmed that there was a groundwater contamination problem and the presence of chlorinated solvents.

Based on a 1989 Preliminary Assessment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the site "No Further Remedial Action Planned" status, since residents in the immediate site vicinity use the Baltimore City public water supply for drinking purposes. In addition, project oversight at the time was being provided by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Pre-Remedial Division of the MDE.

On June 29, 1992, BELCI agreed to conduct groundwater monitoring and the following month submitted a groundwater monitoring plan. The first groundwater sampling event occurred in December 1992.

From May 1993 through April 1994, additional monitoring wells were installed and extensive Hydropunch sampling was performed to locate the source of VOCs at the site. Sample results indicated a possible source area in the vicinity of the northeast corner of the building. Contaminant levels of 400,000 µg/kg tetrachloroethene (PCE) in soil and 6,500 µg/L and 110,000 µg/L PCE and vinyl chloride, respectively, were detected in the groundwater.

In August 1995, Dames and Moore began excavation to delineate the source area. Excavation and removal of the source area began in October 1995. Approximately 800

gallons of contaminated groundwater and 180 tons of soil (including 60 tons of hazardous soil containing elevated levels of PCE and 1,2-dichloroethene) were removed from the excavation and disposed off site. Two years of quarterly groundwater monitoring was performed as a follow-up to this removal action.

In November 1998, a second source excavation was performed by BELCI under MDE oversight. Leaking pipes associated with one of the USTs apparently caused a release of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) to the groundwater, creating a second plume. Approximately 170 tons of contaminated soil, 50 gallons of groundwater, and 1-2 gallons of 1,1,1-TCA product were removed during the excavation. Additionally, the underground pipes and the associated former TCA tank were removed.

Current Status

Pursuant to the 1999 Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, MDE conducted a Site Survey of the Gibson-Homans facility. The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by EPA. The Site Survey concluded that further action is required by MDE and that EPA should archive the site.

Contact

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