

Curcio Scrap Metal, Inc.

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD011717584

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 09

Bergen

Saddle Brook Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 1/1/1987

Final Date: 7/1/1987

Site Description

The 1-acre Curcio Scrap Metal, Inc. (CSMI) site is an active scrap metal yard that contains 10,950 square feet of warehouse and office space. CSMI and Cirello Iron and Steel Company (CISC) recycle scrap iron, copper, aluminum, and other ferrous and non-ferrous metals on this active yard. In 1982, CSMI received shipments of 50 electrical transformers and, while cutting the transformers, oil containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) spilled onto the ground. The State became aware of the site in 1982 when a citizen became concerned over CSMI's activities. The State found the soil and runoff from a drainage ditch to be contaminated with PCBs. In 1985, the State discovered an oil spill that flowed from the site to a pond approximately 300 feet from the Curcio site and determined that CISC was responsible for the spill. The company spilled approximately 200 gallons of hydraulic fluid on the CSMI site. Approximately 30,000 people depend on public wells within 3 miles of the site as their sole source of drinking water. An estimated 1,000 to 3,000 people live within a 1-mile radius, with the closest residence being 300 feet from the site. The site is located above the Brunswick Aquifer. Schroeders Brook is located nearby.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The groundwater and soil were contaminated with PCBs, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Surface water in a drainage ditch and in a nearby pond was also contaminated. Residents in the vicinity of the Site receive their water from municipal wells in Garfield, Lodi, and Fair Lawn. Therefore, residents are not exposed to contaminated water.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two remedial phases. The first phase focused on cleanup of the soil, while the second phase focuses on groundwater.

Response Action Status

Soil: EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on June 28, 1991 for the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 1,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil. In August 1992, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) to explain a modification of the remedy selected in the ROD. The ROD called for incineration of all PCB contaminated soil, however, due to the nationwide shortfall in incineration capacity for PCB contaminated materials, EPA modified the remedial approach. It was necessary to dispose of a portion of the contaminated soil at a RCRA/TSCA permitted landfill in order to complete the remedy in a timely manner. The revised remedial approach differed from the ROD only with regard to the off-site disposition/treatment of the contaminated soils. Remedial action activities were initiated at the site in September 1993. Within four months, approximately 3,400 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and disposed off-site at permitted disposal facilities. In addition, approximately 20,000 gallons of contaminated water was collected, treated and transported off-site for disposal. Confirmatory sampling indicated that the cleanup level was achieved. Subsequently, the site was backfilled, graded and a concrete pad was installed.

Surfacewater and Groundwater: In June 1995 the contaminated surface water and sediment area of nearby Schroeder's Brook was remediated. Remedial action activities included the excavation and off-site disposal of 145.2 tons of solidified PCB-contaminated stream sediments and standing surface water. Confirmatory sampling indicated that the cleanup level was achieved. Subsequently, the area was restored and backfilled to form a rock-level channel that meets New Jersey's erosion and sediment control standards.

Preliminary groundwater sampling was conducted in August 1989, July 1990 and September 1993. In February 1996, the Potentially Responsible Party performed additional site work and placed monitoring wells on-site to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination. Beginning in March 1996, groundwater in all seven monitoring wells was sampled on a quarterly basis for one year. In March 1997, a Groundwater Investigation Report was submitted to EPA which summarized the quarterly groundwater sampling data and the nature and extent of groundwater contamination. EPA and NJDEP evaluated this data and in September 1997, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the groundwater phase of this Site cleanup. The ROD called for no further action with long term groundwater monitoring. EPA negotiated an Order under which the Potentially Responsible Party agreed to perform long-term groundwater monitoring. Long-term monitoring started in March 2000 and is ongoing.

Site Facts: In 1988, EPA, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), CSMI, and CISC entered into an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct a study to determine the extent of the contamination at the site. The EPA issued an Administrative Order in 1989 requiring CSMI, CISC, Mr. Curcio and Mr. Cirello to refrain from taking any actions that might interfere with the EPA's investigation or cleanup of the site. The Respondents are also required to implement provisions for eliminating any future releases of hazardous substances at the site. EPA issued an Administrative Order in 1991 requiring all responsible parties to perform the remedial design and remedial construction for the site soils cleanup. The soil cleanup was completed in 1994.

In September 1999, EPA issued an Order under which the Potentially Responsible Party performed five years of long-term groundwater monitoring. The required long-term groundwater monitoring began in March 2000. In April 2005, EPA issued an Amendment to the September 1999 Order under which the Potentially Responsible Party continued to perform long-term groundwater monitoring for an additional five years. A Second Amendment to the September 1999 Order will be issued in Winter 2011 to continue long-term groundwater monitoring for an additional five years.

In December 2006, the Potentially Responsible Party filed a Classification Exception Area (CEA) application with NJDEP. The CEA was established by NJDEP in October 2008.

Cleanup Progress

Preliminary investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination present at the Curcio Scrap Metal, Inc. site have been performed. Further investigations revealed that site soils were heavily contaminated with PCBs and heavy metals. From September 1993 to January 1994, approximately 3,400 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and transported off-site for disposal and/or treatment. Subsequently, the site was backfilled with clean soil and a concrete pad was installed. In June 1995, the contaminated surface water and sediment area of nearby Schroeder's Brook was remediated. Remedial action activities included the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 145 tons of contaminated material. Confirmatory sampling indicated that the cleanup level was achieved. Subsequently, the area was restored and backfilled to form a rock level channel that meets the State of New Jersey's erosion and sediment control standards.

A study to define the nature and extent of groundwater contamination has been conducted. Beginning in March 1996, groundwater in all seven monitoring wells was sampled on a quarterly basis for one year. In September 1997, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the groundwater phase of this Site cleanup. The ROD called for no further action with long-term groundwater monitoring. In September 1999, EPA issued an Order under which the Potentially Responsible Party performed five years of groundwater monitoring. The required long-term groundwater monitoring began in March 2000.

The long-term groundwater monitoring results indicate low levels of VOCs in two of the overburden wells, including benzene and TCE. Also, aluminum, arsenic, lead, iron, manganese and sodium are the metals that were detected at concentrations that exceed the state and federal standards. Overall, EPA has determined that while conditions at the site are relatively stable, some contaminants have been detected above State and Federal Standards and the monitoring program will continue.

In April 2005, EPA issued an Amendment to the September 1999 Order under which the Potentially Responsible Party continued to perform long-term groundwater monitoring for an additional five years. A Second Amendment to the September 1999 Order will be issued in Winter 2011 to continue long-term groundwater monitoring for an additional five years.

In December 2006, the Potentially Responsible Party filed a Classification Exception Area (CEA) application with NJDEP. The CEA was established by NJDEP in October 2008.

Site Repositories

Saddle Brook Free Public Library, 340 Mayhill Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07662

Additional Links: