

Lawrence Aviation Industries

New York

EPA ID#: NYD002041531

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 01

Suffolk
Port Jefferson Station

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/22/1999
Final Date: 3/6/2000

Site Description

The Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) site is located in the Village of Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. LAI was a manufacturer of titanium sheeting for the aeronautics industry. The company was founded at its present location in 1959. The property was previously a turkey farm owned by LAI's corporate predecessor, Ledkote Products Company of New York. In 1991, LAI indicated that its titanium mill was operating in a 200,000-square-foot plant complex on a 160-acre site. The site is located on a topographic high point and is surrounded by residential areas and a few commercial properties. The Port Jefferson Harbor, an outlet to the Long Island Sound, lies approximately one mile to the north, in the direction of groundwater flow. Groundwater from the underlying Upper Glacial/Magothy aquifer is the only source of drinking water in the site vicinity. There are 47 public supply wells, serving an estimated 120,500 people within 4 miles of the site.

Past disposal practices and releases from leaking drums at LAI have resulted in numerous violations cited by both Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). In 1980, the company crushed more than 1600 drums, allowing the liquid contents to spill on unprotected soil. The drums contained trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), spent acid sump sludges, salt wastes, hydraulic oils, hydrofluoric acid, nitric acids, and other plant wastes. SCDHS also observed numerous discharges from various plant activities to the ground surface and into two unlined lagoons.

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater contaminated with TCE, PCE, nitrates, and fluoride has been detected in monitoring wells installed on the perimeter of the site property by NYSDEC, as well as in nearby residential wells. Potential drinking water threats posed to residents have been addressed by connecting the affected homes to the public water supply. Annual testing of the public supply wells show them to be in compliance with State and Federal standards. Due to shallow groundwater in residential areas over the TCE plume, vapor intrusion is a potential threat. EPA has been monitoring the groundwater and the soil gas above the contaminated plume to ensure that the proper health-protective measures have been implemented. Since February 2006, EPA has tested about 70 separate building locations as well as the Port Jefferson High School with some of the locations retested on numerous occasions. All sampling results to date indicate that there has been no public health issues related to indoor air quality inside any of the buildings sampled within the plume area. However, as a precautionary measure EPA has installed vapor intrusion mitigation systems in three (3) homes and one (1) in the Port Jefferson High School. EPA will start testing for vapor intrusion for this winter in late February and March 2011.

Cleanup Approach

It is anticipated that the site will be addressed in phases: an immediate action phase for extension to the public water supply (which has been completed) and two long-term remedial phases, focusing on the soil and groundwater contamination on the property and groundwater contamination migrating off the property.

Response Action Status

Groundwater Removal Actions:

From 1979 to 1997, TCE was detected in 11 residential wells located between 0.22 and 1.05 miles north of the site. Residences with private drinking water wells located north of the site have been connected to the public water supply to eliminate the presence or threat of exposure to TCE contamination. These removal actions were performed by both EPA

and NYSDEC.

Drum Removal Action :

In July 1990, the NYSDEC Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program discovered more than 2,000 drums stored on the site. Drum contents included waste solvents, acetone, acids, oils, salty bases, inks, and untreated acidic sludges, as well as numerous types of solid waste. NYSDEC cited LAI for violating numerous hazardous waste regulations, and provided oversight for drum removal activities in 1990 and 1991.

During 2004 EPA undertook another removal action. The objective of this action was to stabilize remaining on site materials and reduce the threat of release of hazardous substances. Approximately 1300 drums of waste materials were disposed off site.

Site Facts:

The EPA sent a Notice Letter to the party responsible for the site contamination in April 2000. Because negotiations with the potentially responsible party to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study were unsuccessful, EPA has utilized a Superfund contractor to assess the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and alternatives to address it.

Cleanup Progress

The extension of public water to the 11 nearby residences has eliminated the potential exposure or threat of exposure to contamination through the drinking water pathway. Additionally, the removal of drums containing hazardous chemicals has reduced the number of source areas on the property and the potential for cross contamination to the underlying groundwater.

EPA has completed the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to determine the extent of contamination and evaluated alternatives for Site clean-up. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan was issued in July 2006 and a Public Meeting was held on August 1, 2006. After consideration of public comments that were received up until the close of the extended comment period on September 18, 2006, EPA 's Record of Decision for the site was issued on September 29, 2006. The selected remedy includes excavation and removal of surface soils with PCB concentrations exceeding 1 part per million. The selected remedy for groundwater includes groundwater extraction and treatment as well as in situ chemical oxidation enhancement.

Remedial Design activities associated with delineation of PCB soil excavation areas, evaluation of on site electrical transformers, and evaluation of the facility's drainage catchbasins have been initiated. Additional groundwater monitoring wells were installed in January 2008. Excavation and off site disposal of PCB soils in the former Drum Crushing area began in February 2009 and was completed in November 2009. Approximately 16,000 tons of contaminated soil were excavated and disposed off-site at an approved disposal facility. Remedial design of the groundwater extraction and treatment systems at the LAI Facility site and downgradient at the Old Mill Pond location were completed in April and September 2009, respectively. Remedial Action activities for both groundwater treatment plants are underway.

The Lawrence Aviation received American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding in fiscal year 2009. The \$4.7 million in ARRA funding for this site was used to initiate the "on-property" ground water remedy for the site, which consists of an extraction and treatment system and the in-situ chemical oxidation process. These actions, aimed at source control, will prevent the further migration of ground water contaminants beyond the LAI plant site boundary. Mobilization for the initiation of field activities occurred in November 2009 and construction was completed in September 2010. The treatment system operation at the LAI Facility began on September 28, 2010, following completion of the Initial Testing Program (ITP). The ITP was the last component of construction related activities and served as the final testing of the entire treatment system. Following the ITP, normal Operation and Maintenance (O&M) were initiated. Construction of the second treatment system downgradient at the Old Mill Pond began in November 2010. Completion is expected by late summer/early fall.

Site Repositories

Additional information about the site is available for review at:

Port Jefferson Free Public Library 100 Thompson Street Port Jefferson, NY 11777

and

Comesewogue Library 170 Terryville Road Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776