Claremont Polychemical

New York

EPA ID#: NYD002044584

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 03

Nassau

Old Bethpage

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/1/1984
Final Date: 6/1/1986

Site Description

The Claremont Polychemical Site, situated on an approximately 9.5-acre site, is a former manufacturer of pigments for plastics and inks that operated from 1966 to 1980. During its operation, Claremont Polychemical Corporation (Claremont) disposed of liquid wastes in three leaching basins and deposited solid wastes and treatment sludges in drums or in old, aboveground metal tanks. During a series of inspections in 1979, the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDH) found 2,000 to 3,000 drums containing inks, resins, and organic solvents throughout the site. Some of the drums were uncovered, while others reportedly were leaking. NCDH inspectors noted that an area east of the building was contaminated with organic solvents that resulted from spills and discharges. Claremont sorted and removed the drums from the site in 1980. A subsequent investigation by NCDH revealed most of the drums were gone, but an area of soil (referred to as the "spill area") was visibly contaminated with inks and solvents. As a result, Claremont was directed to install groundwater monitoring wells. The closest residences are located approximately 1/2 mile from the site. Approximately 47,000 people draw drinking water from wells located within 3 miles of the site. The nearest public water supply well is 3,500 feet northwest of the site

Site Responsibility: This Site is being addressed through Federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Shallow groundwater is contaminated with organic compounds in excess of federal and/or New York State Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). These organic compounds include: tetrachloroethene (PCE), trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, ethylbenzene, acetone, benzene, 1,1-dichloroethane, methylene chloride, xylenes and vinyl chloride. Should the contaminants move into the public drinking water, residents could be exposed to contaminants by drinking affected water or inhaling the volatile compounds present in the water. The nearest public drinking water supply well is tested on a routine basis to ensure compliance with State and federal drinking water standards.

Cleanup Approach

This Site is being addressed in three stages: immediate actions and two long-term remedial phases focusing on the removal and disposal of hazardous materials and on-site soil and groundwater cleanup.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1989 and 1990, the EPA removed 13,000 gallons of hazardous liquid wastes contained in drums, aboveground tanks, basins, etc. The waste materials were tested for compatibility, consolidated and transported to an off-site treatment, storage and disposal facility. In addition, in 1991 fifteen underground storage tanks were removed and their contents transported off-site for treatment/disposal.

Soil and Groundwater Contamination: In 1990, the EPA completed an investigation into the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination. The remedy selected in a September 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) includes: excavation and treatment of contaminated soil by low heat to enhance the volatilization of the contaminants, and deposition of the treated soil in the excavated areas; decontamination of the on-site building by vacuuming and dusting the contaminated surfaces and by removing the asbestos insulation; and extraction and treatment of the groundwater by air stripping and carbon adsorption and then reinjection of the treated water into the ground.

The soil excavation/treatment work began in the fall of 1996 and was completed in March of 1997. Approximately 8,762

tons of contaminated soils were remediated. The building decontamination work began in the summer of 1997 and was substantially completed in December 1997. Approximately 32 tons of mixed debris, 2,600 linear ft. of asbestos materials and 86 tons of asbestos tank coatings were removed from the building. However, during the decontamination effort, subsequent sampling of a hole discovered in the floor slab led to the detection of a new source of contaminated soil beneath the building. Additional sampling detected soil contaminated with elevated levels of VOCs and cadmium. In August 2002 EPA began a pilot study to address the VOCs in the soil underneath the Process Building by using a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. In April 2003, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the 1990 ROD to include additional remedial actions. These actions include treating the VOCs in the soil under the former Process Building by operating the SVE system and maintaining the integrity of the Process Building's floor over time to prevent exposure to cadmium-contaminated soil. The ESD also called for the removal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of industrial/commercial demolition and construction debris located on the northern portion of the property and the decommissioning of five concrete-lined pits, which served as former wastewater treatment basins. These remedial actions were completed in September 2003.

The former ProcessBuilding has been vacant for several years and is in extremely poor condition. Substantial roof leaks have led to severe ponding and water damage. Portions of the roof have collapsed and complete replacement is required. The current unsafe conditions have caused EPA to temporarily suspend operating the SVE system. Over 1,200 pounds of VOCs have been removed by the SVE system. EPA is waiting for the new owner of the property to remedy the unsafe conditions. Once the building is safe to enter, EPA will continue the operation of the SVE system until the cleanup levels specified in the April 2003 ESD are met.

The groundwater portion of the remedy is being implemented in two phases. For the first phase, extraction wells were installed at the property boundary to capture the most contaminated groundwater. The construction of this on-site groundwater treatment system began in May 1997 and full-scale operation began in February 2000. The second phase (Claremont off-Property groundwater remediation) is being addressed by NYSDEC through a municipal agreement with the Town of Oyster Bay. An ongoing groundwater remediation program at the Old Bethpage Landfill Superfund Site, which is nearby the Claremont Polychemical Site, is capturing significant levels of contaminants from this plume. The responsibility for the remediation of this plume was transferred to NYSDEC in December 2007.

Cleanup Progress

The removal action disposed of 13,000 gallons of hazardous liquid wastes contained in 700 drums; the removal of 32 tons of mixed debris, 2,600 linear ft. of asbestos materials and 86 tons of asbestos tank coatings from the building; the excavation and off-site disposal of 15 underground storage tanks; the treatment of 8,762 tons of contaminated soils; the decontamination of the building’s interior structure; the operation of the SVE system to address VOC contaminated soil under the former Process Building and the continuous extraction and treatment of the groundwater plume have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the Claremont Polychemical Site. Removal of the construction and demolition debris piles and decommissioning the pits has eliminated potential safety concerns for trespassers and has increased the amount of land that can be put back into productive use at the Claremont Polychemical Site.

In September 2008, EPA conducted a five-year remedy review and concluded that all the components of the remedy are functioning as intended by the decision documents. The property was recently sold and the new property owner is looking at redeveloping the property. However, during the course of the old Process Building rehabilitation, the current owner discovered two previously unidentified septic systems. In April and May 2009, EPA investigated and removed the water and sludge material within the two septic tanks. The tanks were subsequently backfilled with clean fill and sealed with concrete. Additionally, the sanitary leaching pools associated with the septic systems were backfilled and sealed with concrete.

Site Repositories

Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library 999 Old Country Road Plainview, NY 11803 Telephone Number: (516) 938-0077