

Site Fact Sheet
Little Elk Creek
Area-Wide One Cleanup Program Pilot Project
Ionics, Incorporated Property
801 Elkton Boulevard
Elkton, MD 21921

Property Description

The 19-acre property is located in a commercial/industrial area, approximately 750 feet east of Little Elk Creek. Groundwater flow and site drainage are both south to southwest. The Ionics property is located on flat terrain with no surface water bodies on-site.

An underutilized industrial park located along the Little Elk Creek in Cecil County, Maryland has been selected as an Area-Wide Pilot Project under U.S. EPA's One Cleanup Program and Land Revitalization initiatives. The goals of the Little Elk Creek Pilot Project is to address a widespread groundwater contamination problem stemming from multiple industrial sources within a geographic area and support development and reuse needs of the surrounding community.

The property is currently used for the storage and distribution of bleach and windshield washer fluid. Site features include an open concrete fire pond, a 300,000 square foot manufacturing plant/warehouse on the eastern portion of the property, and a 20,000 square foot warehouse located on the western portion of the property.

Property History

In March 1920 and May 1930, the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington Railroad Company purchased the property in two land transactions. In February 1947, the property was sold to the American Sugar Refining Company. In January 1957, Louis M. Golden, Jr. purchased the property and sold it to Green River Realty Corporation in March 1960. General Cable Corporation purchased the property in March 1961. Pirelli Cable Corporation acquired the property in March 1978 and used the facility to produce and test specialty cable systems until 1987. In August 1987, Charles D. Benjamin purchased the property. Between 1987 and 1990, Majestic Industry manufactured and printed binders and book covers. In 1995, Ionics purchased the property.

Environmental Investigations

Environmental investigations conducted in 2001 and 2002 focused on investigating groundwater contamination, which was principally identified as volatile organic compounds. At the request of the property owner, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) completed a Phase II Brownfields Assessment in October 2002. Analytical results indicated elevated levels of

volatile organic compounds.

Contaminants

Elevated levels of volatile organic compounds such as trichloroethene, methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), 1,1-dichloroethene, and cis-1,2-dichloroethene have been detected in the ground water beneath the site.

Cleanup and Next Steps

On January 15, 2003, Ionics submitted a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application to MDE seeking a “No Further Requirements Determination” as a responsible person. Following a regional groundwater investigation in the Elkton area, the Department issued a No Further Requirements Determination on August 20, 2004 for use of the Ionics property for commercial or industrial purposes and a prohibition on the use of groundwater beneath the property for any purpose.

Lead Agency and Contacts

MDE Superfund is the lead agency for this site and will continue to investigate adjacent off-site areas as potential sources in the overall groundwater contamination in the Elkton area.

EPA Contact

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