



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

EPA to Investigate Laundry Air Quality

Grand Traverse Overall Supply

Traverse City, Mich.

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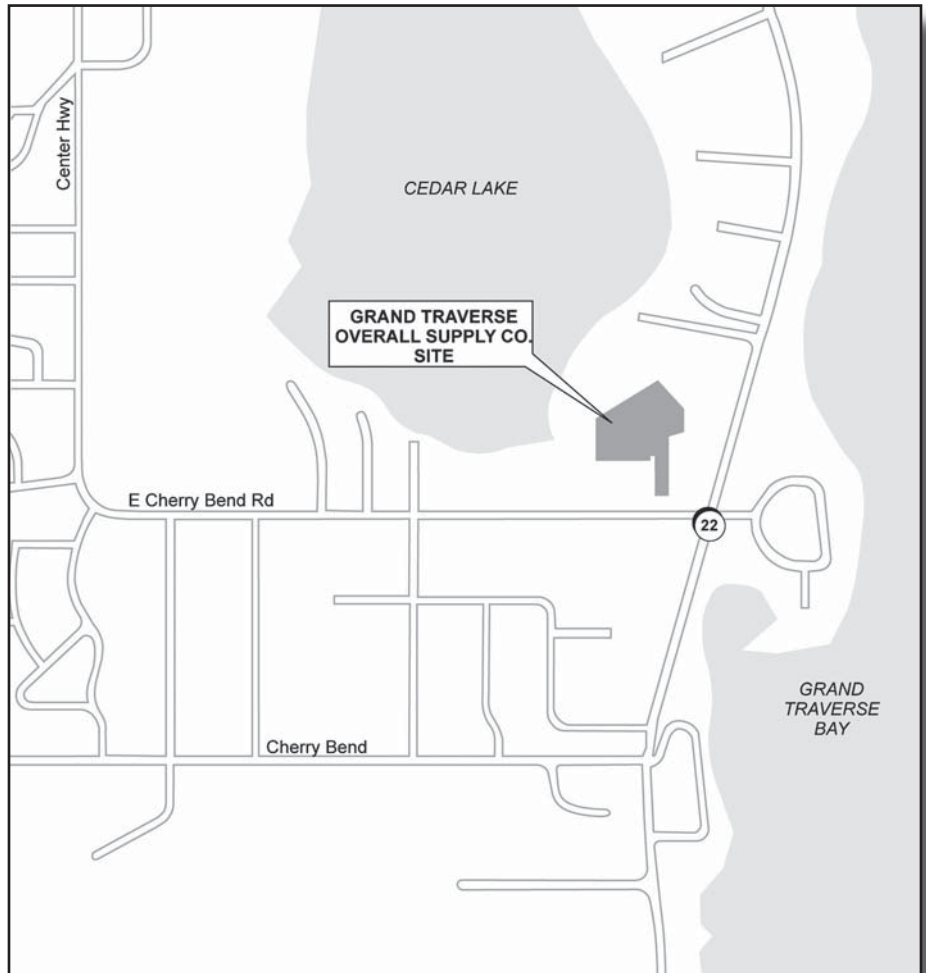


Figure 1. Location map

EPA to Investigate Laundry Air Quality

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct site investigation work March 1-3 at the Grand Traverse Overall Supply Superfund site, Cherry Bend Road and Cedar Creek, Greilickville, Mich. Cintas Corp., an industrial laundry company, is leasing the site.

EPA's Environmental Response Team will collect air samples from soil gas beneath the site and in air within the building at the site using a trace atmospheric gas analyzer (TAGA) vehicle. The TAGA vehicle is a mobile laboratory that analyzes samples as they are collected. The results are expected to help EPA determine if there are contaminants under the building that should be cleaned up.



Trace atmospheric gas analyzer vehicle



Inside TAGA vehicle



TAGA - mobile laboratory

Site History

GTOS was a commercial laundry that began operating at the facility in the early 1950s. It added dry cleaning operations in the late 1960s. Dry cleaning was discontinued in 1987, but commercial laundering continued. The facility went bankrupt and closed in early 1992.

From 1955 through 1977, wastewater from the laundry and dry cleaning operation was discharged into four unlined lagoons and a dry well on the site. In 1977, the discharges were rerouted to the municipal sewer system and the lagoons and dry well were abandoned.

In 1978, nearby ground water was found to be contaminated with chemicals used in dry cleaning operations. From 1978 to 1980, GTOS with oversight by the State of Michigan replaced contaminated drinking water wells near the site and filled three of the four lagoons and converted them to parking lots. The fourth lagoon was turned into a grassy area. In 1979, the dry well was excavated along with adjacent contaminated soil.

An investigation conducted by Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 1979-80 determined that the GTOS site was the source of ground water contamination in the area. GTOS was placed on the National Priorities List in September 1983 because of the ground water contamination. Sites on the NPL are among the nation's most hazardous waste areas and are eligible for cleanup under the EPA Superfund program.

EPA conducted a remedial investigation/feasibility study for the facility in 1989-90 that found that ground water contamination had declined sharply and no longer posed a threat to human health. In 1992, EPA issued a document called a record of decision that determined no further action was necessary at this site because the earlier cleanup had addressed the source of ground water contamination.

However, in 1996, Conestoga-Rovers, an environmental consulting firm, did an environmental assessment for Unitog Rental



TAGA corridor



TAGA equipment

Services. This investigation found that there was soil contamination under the floor of the building.

In 2001-02, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) sampled near the site and found

contamination in the ground water coming from under the GTOS building. MDEQ gave this new information to EPA for evaluation and further investigation.

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