

Alpha Chemical Corporation
4620 North Galloway Road
Lakeland, Florida
County: Polk
District: Southwest
Site Lead: EPA
Placed on National Priorities List: October 23, 1981
Delisted: June 28, 1995
HWC # 001
ERIC ID # 3774

Site Description and History

The Alpha Chemical Corp. owned and operated a polyester resin manufacturing facility, which is approximately 22 acres in size and is located in Kathleen, Florida near Lakeland in Section 28, Township 27S, Range 23E at 28° 06' 03.3803" N, 82° 00' 26.6211" W. Alpha Resins plant began operation in 1967 and produced 52 million pounds of polyester resin a year. The problem area consisted of an abandoned percolation pond and a landfilled area that covered a second percolation pond. The contaminated area was approximately 200 feet by 200 feet in size and located adjacent to the plant in a five-acre field. The plant was centered in an agriculture-residential community.

Threat

Soils in the landfill and pond area, and groundwater in the surficial aquifer, were contaminated with phthalates, halogenated and non-halogenated volatile organics, phenols, polynuclear aromatics and hydrocarbons. Private wells surrounding the site were tested and revealed no contamination. To date, all water quality data indicate that there is no contamination of the Floridan Aquifer.

Response Strategy and Status

In August 1983, the Alpha Chemical Company contracted with P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates to conduct an evaluation of the geology and groundwater at the facility. Groundwater sampling indicated the presence of benzene, ethylbenzene, and acetone in the area of the old industrial ponds. Alpha met with EPA and Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) in July 1984, and agreed to conduct a formal remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). A RI/FS work plan was approved by FDER and EPA, and the investigation began in November 1984. In March 1985, a formal Consent Order was signed between FDER and Alpha which required Alpha to complete a RI/FS. Soil borings were made to determine the depth and boundaries of the "old landfill", and groundwater monitoring wells were installed to determine the extent of the contamination. Analyses of on-site soil and groundwater revealed several volatile organic compounds (ethylbenzene, styrene, and acetone). Field activities were completed in August 1985, and the final report was received in August 1986. A revised Endangerment Assessment was completed and approved by EPA and FDER.

A public meeting was held in November 1986 to discuss the Endangerment Assessment and Remedial Investigation. The FS was completed in February 1988, and a public meeting was held to discuss the results. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in May 1988. The selected remedial alternative called for capping of the unlined pond and long-term groundwater monitoring. The Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Work Plan was approved in November 1988.

The Consent Decree for the construction of Remedial Action was entered into court in May 1989. Construction of a cap on the unlined pond was begun and completed in September 1989. In October 1994, a close-out report and delist package were completed by EPA. FDEP signed a Letter of Concurrence for delisting the site in February 1995. Long term quarterly monitoring with five year reviews is scheduled to be conducted for twenty years.