

Gold Coast Oil Corporation

2835 Southwest 71st Avenue

Miami, Florida

County: Miami – Dade

District: Southeast

Site Lead: EPA

Placed on National Priorities List: October 23, 1981

Delisted: October 9, 1996

HWC # 013

ERIC ID # 3786

Site Description and History

Gold Coast Oil is located at 2835 Southwest 71st Avenue in Miami in Section 14, Township 54S, Range 40E at 25° 44' 36.7125" N, 80° 18' 39.1257" W. The two-acre site was owned by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad (SCLR, now CSX Transportation Co.), which leased the property to the Gold Coast Oil Corporation (GCO) in the early 1970s. Gold Coast Oil Corporation and Solvent Extraction, Inc. were in the business of distilling mineral spirits and lacquer thinner, and reclaiming solvent. The overlapping roles of Gold Coast Oil Corporation and Solvent Extraction, Inc. at the site are not clear. GCO was evicted from the property in the summer of 1982.

Blow-down from the Gold Coast operations was sprayed directly onto the ground. Solvent Extraction, Inc. excavated and drummed approximately 53 drums of sludge-contaminated soil from this area. These drums were stored on-site. Solvent Extraction also pumped still bottom waste, generated from its distilling operation, into a tank truck for storage. Also located on the site were approximately 2,500 corroded and leaking drums containing sludge from the solvent distilling operation, contaminated soils and paint sludges along with large storage tanks of hazardous waste. Many of the drums had apparently been on site since the early 1970s.

Threat

Analyses of soils and groundwater on-site indicated the presence of volatile organic chemicals. A plume of contaminated ground water was detected extending off-site to the northeast. Organic contaminants had been detected in groundwater on-site to a depth of over 40 feet. Cadmium, lead and zinc were detected in an abandoned, on-site supply well, although it was speculated this might have been due to degradation of the well casing. Following a combination of groundwater treatment, source removal with offsite disposal, and stabilization and solidification of the remaining waste, as described below, cleanup goals were attained and the site was delisted in July 1996.

Response Strategy and Status

In July 1982, SCLR hired Chemical Waste Management to clean up surface contaminants at the site. The cleanup involved: 1) removal, sampling, bulking and crushing of approximately 2,500

drums; 2) sampling, bulking, and disposal of liquids in tanks; and 3) excavation of contaminated soils to a depth of six inches. A total of 39 loads of solids, 1 load of overpacked flammable solids, and 5 tanker loads of liquids were removed from the site and transported to a hazardous waste landfill in Emelle, Alabama for proper disposal.

SCLR and other potentially responsible parties (PRPs) performed a remedial investigation (RI) to assess groundwater contamination in the area. Soil and sludge samples were not hazardous (EP Toxic) using the RCRA classification system, although high levels of assorted organic chemicals were detected. Groundwater samples did not exceed drinking water standards for metals except at the existing supply well. Nine wells were contaminated with volatile organic compounds. The final RI was completed by the PRPs in March 1984. A draft "Remedial Alternatives Evaluation Report for the Gold Coast Oil Site" was prepared by EPA in June 1984. In May 1985, the PRPs' Steering Committee submitted a "Selection of Remedial Approach" report.

In September 1987, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the EPA. The cleanup alternative selected by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) and the EPA included: 1) extraction of contaminated groundwater with treatment by air stripping, 2) removal and off-site disposal of sludge materials followed by, 3) on-site solidification/stabilization and capping of remaining contaminated soils. In January 1988, approximately 200 additional PRPs were notified of their potential responsibility. In August 1988, a Remedial Design was initiated by the PRPs.

Site clearing was begun in February 1989, and contaminated sludges were removed in March 1989. Remedial design was completed in February 1990. Groundwater remediation was initiated in July, 1990. Construction of the groundwater recovery and treatment system was completed in June 1990. A Notice of Completion and Remedial Action Report was received in February 1992 for construction of the treatment system. Groundwater recovery and treatment is currently underway.

Groundwater data collected from 1992 through the Spring of 1994 indicated that contaminant levels have been reduced but are sporadically fluctuating both above and below the cleanup goals. In April 1994, EPA instructed the PRPs to cease groundwater recovery and treatment but to continue groundwater monitoring over the next 6 months so that representative samples of remaining onsite groundwater quality could be obtained. Results indicated some increase in groundwater contaminant levels.

Additional soil was removed in December 1994 as a possible continuing source of groundwater contamination. In the spring of 1995, DEP requested that EPA replace and test the two monitoring wells removed during the soil removal action to reconfirm that groundwater contamination does not exist. The responsible parties subsequently provided groundwater data collected from open pits in the soil removal areas for consideration. The data indicates that groundwater contaminant levels have declined in the areas of concern, and are below drinking water standards. DEP issued formal concurrence with EPA's delisting of the site from the NPL in July 1996.