

Control Products Associated
First Street and Brainard Road
St. Augustine, Florida
County: St. John's
District: Northeast
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: May 13, 1987
Delisted: February 9, 1990
HWC # 043

Site Description and History

The Control Products site is located in a residential neighborhood in St. Johns County, approximately six miles south of St. Augustine off US Highway 1 in Section 07, Township 08S, Range 30E at 29° 49' 36.1843" N, 81° 19' 06.3616" W. The site is adjacent to Moultrie Creek, a tributary of the Matanzas River, and the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) to the east. Control Products manufactured pesticides from 1969 to 1982. The company is now defunct. A fire in July 1980 destroyed the residence of the owner, Argene Williams. The subsequent investigation into the fire revealed that a number of pesticides had been stored on the property. None of the chemicals, finished products or the plant itself was damaged by the fire. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Department contacted the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) and reported a Malathion spill.

Subsequent investigation by the FDER revealed that a number of pesticides had been stored on the property (Pyrethrin, Diazinon, Dursban, Vapona, Malathion and Dieldrin) and that a 55 gallon drum containing 95% Malathion was leaking through the floor boards onto the ground approximately 30 feet from Moultrie Creek. The St. Augustine Shores Volunteer Fire Department placed the leaking drum in a recovery drum and cleaned up the spill with absorbent. Twelve other drums containing chemicals and pesticides were also found on the site. A chemical waste contractor performed on-site cleanup and transported all drums containing hazardous materials to Emelle, Alabama for proper disposal. No soil removal was done by the contractor.

Threat

On-site sampling of soil and groundwater confirmed soil contamination of the following pesticides and chemicals: Dursban, Dieldrin, DDT and DDE. Residents of the area obtain their drinking water from private wells. The St. Johns County Health Department sampled several private water wells in the neighborhood, although analyses did not detect any groundwater contamination. The soil contamination presented a threat to private water wells, human health and the environment. Following soil removal and offsite disposal, the site was delisted in February 1990.

Response Strategy and Status

Contamination assessment up to July 1986 was limited, because the owner had refused site access. In May 1986, site access was granted by Jacksonville District Court. Additional soil and groundwater sampling as performed in July 1986 to assess the extent of the soil and groundwater contamination. The reports showed substantial pesticide contamination (Dieldrin), however, cleanup was limited to localized soil removal. A risk assessment and additional field work were necessary to assess final action. The Feasibility Study was completed by FDER contractor in January 1989. The Feasibility Study outlined five alternatives for remedial action. FDER selected source removal and offsite disposal as the appropriate remedial action.

In April 1989, FDER initiated and completed a Fast Track Design. In May 1989, FDER gained access through a court order to complete the removal of approximately 600 cubic yards of soil. In June 1989, removal activities were completed. The site was delisted from the State Action Site Lists, and a Cost Recovery Package has been forwarded to the Office of General Council.