

Ocala Plating
3200 Northwest 16th Avenue
Ocala, Florida
County: Marion
District: Central
Site Lead: DEP Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: January 31, 1989
Delisted: March 11, 2011
HWC # 060

Site Description and History

The Ocala Plating facility is located on a 6.6 acre tract in a moderately populated residential/light-industrial area of northwest Ocala in Section 01, Township 15S, Range 21E at 29° 12' 59.5779" N, 82° 09' 23.6883" W. The facility was an electroplating operation, which conducted copper, nickel, and chromium plating from about 1972 until late 1985. During approximately the first eight years of operation, untreated effluent from the electroplating process was disposed in two unlined evaporation basins on site. In 1980, a five tank treatment system was constructed to replace the evaporation basins. Sludge from the main evaporation basin was then excavated and transported to a proper disposal facility in Michigan. No remedial action has been performed on the remaining basin.

Onsite samples analyzed in December 1985 by Marion County Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) revealed high levels of chromium, cadmium, nickel, and lead in the soils. In March 1986, additional testing by HRS indicated chromium contamination of two private wells on property adjacent to the Ocala Plating site. As a result, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) conducted a groundwater investigation of the site and surrounding area from March through May of 1986. This investigation confirmed contamination of the two residential private drinking water wells. Subsequently, four residences were connected to the city water supply. In December 1986, FDER issued a warning notice to the Ocala Plating property owners, ordering them to respond to groundwater and surface water violations. The property owners were unable to finance cleanup of the site or to pay for the residential water line hookups.

Threat

Groundwater concentrations of chromium and cadmium above Florida primary drinking water standards were detected in two private wells and onsite monitoring wells. Tetrachloroethylene was also detected during one sampling event above Florida primary drinking water standards in one private well and one monitoring well. A number of other private wells are located downgradient from the site and faced the potential threat of contamination. There is no current health threat posed by soils at the site. Soils with contaminant concentrations exceeding criteria for unrestricted use were excavated and disposed offsite by DEP in 1995.

Response Strategy and Status

In January 1989, the Ocala Plating site was recommended and approved for state-funded cleanup. DEP completed its evaluation of remedial alternatives and documented the selected cleanup strategy in a Decision Memo in June 1994, which addressed both contaminated soils and groundwater. Contaminated soils were to be excavated and disposed as non-hazardous materials at a lined Class I State municipal landfill. Onsite tank sludges were to be disposed at an out-of-state permitted hazardous waste facility. Recovery of contaminated groundwater and treatment through the City of Ocala's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) was also proposed.

In September 1995, DEP initiated remediation of the site which included the removal and disposal of approximately 3,500 tons of contaminated soil as non-hazardous material, removal and disposal of the onsite treatment tanks and debris piles, disposal of approximately eight tons of plating process sludges and waste bin contents as hazardous waste, and removal and disposal of two pressurized cylinders and small quantities of sodium hydroxide and waste oil. Remedial activities were completed in October 1995.

Groundwater sampling conducted in April 1996 indicated elevated levels of metals contamination in an offsite, upgradient well. Data review indicated that the likely cause of the elevated metals concentrations was high turbidity levels in the groundwater samples. Additional confirmatory groundwater sampling was conducted in June 1996. Analyses of the samples indicated that the groundwater contamination appears to be limited to the site, with no apparent offsite exceedance of drinking water standards.

Groundwater sampling and the installation of two additional monitoring wells were performed in June 1997. The sampling results indicated that groundwater contamination was limited to the site boundaries and continuing to decline in concentration, such that active groundwater remediation did not appear warranted. In October 1997, DEP issued an Amended Decision Memorandum, which specified semi-annual groundwater monitoring to confirm the continued decline in contaminant levels. In 2003, the groundwater monitoring schedule was adjusted to annual sampling events based on a review of the historical groundwater contaminant data.

A Restrictive Covenant, which prevents the installation of onsite potable wells, and limits the site to commercial/industrial use, has been signed and recorded. An Amended Decision Memorandum has been signed by DEP to document this revised approach. A Site Rehabilitation Completion Order with institutional controls, in accordance with Chapter 62-780(680)(2) Florida Administrative Code, has been issued by DEP on March 11, 2011, completing the site remediation. All the onsite wells that could be located have been properly plugged and abandoned by a Florida-licensed well driller.