

American Celcure Wood Preserving
1074 East 8th Street
Jacksonville, Florida
County: Duval
District: Northeast
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: May 1, 1993
Delisted: July 24, 2001
HWC # 097

Site Description and History

The American Celcure Wood Preserving Corporation (Celcure) site is located in Section 07, Township 02S, Range 27E at 30° 20' 40.4796 " N, 81° 38' 33.2735" W, in Jacksonville, Florida. This site operated as a wood preservative treatment facility from the early 1950's until its closing in 1981. During this time, Celcure pressure treated lumber with acid cupric chromate (ACC), a waterborne preservative.

Celcure recycled its ACC solution by capturing the excess in a cement-lined pit beneath the treatment cylinder. This pit was an open storage tank without any secondary containment structures, additional freeboard, drainage control or diversion features. Consequently, the drainage pit frequently overflowed. During the operational life of the facility, untreated industrial wastewaters were discharged through a storm drainage system to a nearby ditch leading to Deer Creek. Deer Creek is classified as Class III waters by the State of Florida.

In November 1980, the owner of Celcure, Lester Coleman, submitted an EPA Hazardous Waste Permit Application, Part A, informing EPA and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) that Celcure was a container storage facility storing 500 gallons of chromium. Celcure ceased operating in July 1981, and abandoned the site. In August 1981, during a routine hazardous waste inspection by FDER, numerous violations were noted.

Threat

Analysis of chromium levels in the ditch ranged from 43 to 132 mg/kg. Groundwater samples were taken by the FDER in 1983 and 1987, and revealed groundwater chromium concentrations ranging from 703 to 176,400 µg/L. Phenol, cyanide and other volatile organic compounds were also detected on site. Soil samples were taken by the DEP in December 1993, and indicated that soils were contaminated with chromium and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Assessment and remediation efforts have been ongoing since December 1993, and in July 2001, oversight of the site remediation was returned to the Northeast District when viable PRPs were identified.

Response Strategy and Status

In October 1985, the FDER entered into a Consent Order (OGC File 85-0478) with Celcure and Lester Coleman. A final judgment was signed in May 1990, in which Lester Coleman was to be

responsible for funding a Contamination Assessment Plan (CAP) and a Contamination Assessment Report (CAR) subject to FDER approval. Cigna Property and Casualty Insurance Co. agreed to pay \$35,000 for completion of the CAP/CAR and for removal of the on-site underground storage tank containing ACC solution.

The environmental consultant, Integrated Environmental Solutions, Inc. (IES) completed an approved CAP in May 1992. Subsequently, Hydro Terra Environmental Services, Inc. emptied and removed the underground tank in compliance with closure procedures. Although IES installed all of the groundwater monitoring wells required to complete the CAR, they exhausted the insurance money, stopped all work, and placed a lien against the property pending payment of the outstanding balance by the responsible parties. Because of these actions, the wells installed by IES were never sampled.

In February 1991, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard W. Stanley purchased the site via a tax lien but were unable to finance the remedial action. Mr. Stanley attempted to gain access to the monitoring wells and began to dismantle the above ground fuel tank, allowing bunker oil to be spilled onto the ground. Because of his actions, the City of Jacksonville Bio-Environmental Services served Mr. Stanley a notice of violation. In July 1992, the DEP acquired permission to access the property and to restrict the current owner or anyone else from interfering with the monitoring wells and prevent any activity that would impede the Contamination Assessment. The DEP also informed the Stanleys that they were responsible for remedial action costs by knowingly and willingly acquiring title to the contaminated property. In March 1993, the property changed ownership twice, as Mr. Charles E. Chambers purchased it. Mr. Chambers was reportedly pursuing the Cigna Property and Casualty Co., and the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co. in efforts to fund the site remediation. Mr. Chambers had been pursued by the City of Jacksonville since 1997 for costs incurred because of violations at this site, and has since defaulted on the property, which is now deeded to the City of Jacksonville.

In December 1993, the DEP contractor, Woodward-Clyde Consultants (WCC), conducted the initial contamination assessment of soils and groundwater. This investigation revealed elevated levels of chromium and PCBs in the on-site soils. Groundwater analyses revealed elevated levels of chromium in the shallow monitor wells, and volatile organic compounds in the deep monitoring wells on site.

In June 1994, WCC conducted additional site assessment to delineate the chromium and PCB soil contamination, and to further delineate the volatile organic compounds in the deep groundwater zone. The assessment results indicated the PCBs appeared to originate from an off-site source.

In September 1995, WCC completed a Feasibility Study (FS), which delineated the volume and areas of on-site soils requiring remediation. An amendment to the FS was completed in January 1996. The FS documented that chromium levels in soil were not high enough to warrant remedial action; however, soil remediation would be required for the PCB levels detected onsite.

In August 1995, The DEP Site Investigation Section (SIS) conducted an off-site PCB contamination assessment. Because of this investigation, an adjacent property owner, Turner Electric (TE), was identified as the source for PCB contamination. TE assumed responsibility, and offered to assess and excavate PCB-contaminated soils from the Celcure site and the surrounding area.

In May 1996, the SIS also conducted a groundwater investigation at the site to delineate the extent of TCE contamination. TCE was detected in three onsite and two downgradient, offsite wells. The results of this sampling were inconclusive in identifying the source of the TCE groundwater contamination; however, it is believed that Celcure was at least a partial source.

In June 1999, Applied Technology and Management Inc. completed the soil excavation for Tampa Armature Works (TAW; formerly TE), after the DEP Northeast District and TAW agreed to a Consent Order. Underground piping in the western portion of the site was also removed, and 100-200 tons of C&D debris was compiled beneath an old site-building roof.

Ecology & Environment, Inc., under contract with the DEP, completed a groundwater contamination assessment of the site in September 1999. The report recommended additional assessment and the DEP concurred with this evaluation.

In July 2001, the site was delisted from the State-funded Hazardous Waste Cleanup sites list and lead management for the Celcure site was returned to the DEP Northeast District Office. Consent Agreements between the District, Turner Armature Works and the City of Jacksonville will address groundwater contamination at the Celcure site.