

Bert Morsch Lumber
2331 Edison Avenue, corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Lewis Street
Jacksonville, Florida
County: Duval
District: Northeast
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Approved for Cleanup: November 2, 1998
HWC # 118
ERIC ID # 3889

Site Description and History

The Bert Morsch Lumber Company (BMLC) site began as a wholesale lumberyard in 1960, and is located at the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Lewis Street in Jacksonville, Duval County in Township 02S, Range 26E, Section 15 at 30° 19' 25.4450" N, 81° 41' 22.0727" W. In 1976, pressure treating operations were begun at the site using the OSMOSE K33 treatment method. This treatment utilized a combination of copper, chromium, and arsenic (CCA) as a wood preservative. The facility manufactured and distributed pressure treated lumber, timber, marine pilings, and wood fencing. The facility also distributed marine construction materials, dock accessories, and boat accessories. During the period that BMLC was actively pressure-treating wood, four above-ground storage tanks ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 gallons in capacity were used to store CCA chemical solution. Lumber was treated in a 42-foot long, 4-foot diameter, retort treatment cylinder, underlain by a 1-foot thick concrete base and surrounded by a concrete block wall. Wood was treated in the cylinder and then allowed to drip dry. A manually operated gate valve located at the easternmost apex of the containment wall was used to drain the treatment/containment area. Pressure treating operations were discontinued in 1986, and the pressure treating cylinder and aboveground treatment solution storage tanks were removed from the site during a soil removal conducted in 1993.

The facility is currently occupied by a car & truck service and dealership business.

Threat

The treatment and drip drying process resulted in CCA solution contacting the soil and paved areas in the lumber yard and treatment area. Both CCA contaminated storm water and used CCA chemical solution were disposed of and stored onsite. Copper, chromium, and arsenic contamination of both soil and groundwater at the site and in the nearby vicinity is of concern to the Department.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2016)

In August 1999, Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E&E) was contracted by the DEP to conduct contamination assessment activities at the BMLC site to delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of soil and groundwater contamination. The assessment activities were completed in December 2000, and E&E submitted a Site Assessment Report (SAR) to the DEP. The extent of contamination appeared limited to the western and southern portions of the site. However, elevated concentrations of contaminants in the northern and eastern portions of the site remained

undefined. Further delineation of soil contamination in the northern and eastern portions of the site was completed in November and December 2001.

A Feasibility Study/Remedial Alternative Evaluation (FS/RAE) was submitted by E&E in 2003. In 2004, to further delineate the extent of offsite arsenic-contaminated soil and ascertain background arsenic soil concentrations, E&E collected samples from locations surrounding previous offsite sample locations exhibiting elevated arsenic concentrations. Arsenic was found at concentrations exceeding the residential arsenic soil cleanup target level (SCTL). During this time, the residential exposure SCTL for arsenic was under revision by the Department and further delineation of offsite arsenic surface soil contamination was placed on hold until the arsenic SCTL was revised. In 2005, 2.1 mg/kg was adopted as the residential arsenic SCTL, and, in March 2006, the FS/RAE was approved.

A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted in late 2006, and approved by DEP in February 2007, for excavation of contaminated onsite soils and ex-situ treatment of contaminated groundwater. A Decision Memo identifying the selected remedial alternatives for onsite contaminated soils and groundwater was signed in August 2007. The selected remedial alternative for contaminated groundwater was resin ion exchange filtration. The selected remedial alternative for onsite-contaminated soils was excavation and offsite disposal. Further delineation and identification of onsite and offsite contaminated soils was conducted in late 2007, and early 2008. Based upon arsenic concentrations in the soil, there were approximately 30,000 cubic yards of onsite, arsenic-contaminated soil to depths of 8 feet BGS that were addressed during site cleanup activities. The highest contaminant concentrations were located along a 500-foot portion of the eastern site boundary adjacent to the CSX Railroad right-of-way. There were also approximately 180 cubic yards of offsite arsenic-contaminated soil downgradient to the northeast of the site that exceed the residential arsenic SCTL, and would require excavation. This latter area was incorporated into the Jacksonville Incinerator ash remediation and handled as part of that project. In May 2010, E&E was tasked with collecting groundwater samples from fourteen onsite monitoring wells and collecting soil samples to develop an arsenic leaching number for onsite soils. Based upon the data collected, E&E and DEP developed a site-specific arsenic leaching number. E&E performed additional soil sampling to fully delineate the extent of the excavation area based upon the site-specific arsenic leaching number, and submitted a Source Removal and Construction Management Plan (SR-CMP) in May 2011 for the excavation of onsite-contaminated soils. The SR-CMP was approved by DEP in August 2011. Due to funding limitations, the SR-CMP was not implemented until March 2013. Excavation activities began in late November 2013. The SR-CMP was completed in March 2014. A total of 6,087.60 tons of contaminated soil and debris was excavated and disposed offsite. The excavation was backfilled and capped with approximately 1,139 tons of asphalt at a thickness of 3 inches. The first round of post excavation groundwater monitoring indicated only one monitor well with an arsenic concentration in excess of the primary drinking water standard (PDWS). However, this concentration did not exceed the arsenic Natural Attenuation Default Concentration (NADC).

Schedule

One year of semi-annual post excavation groundwater sampling was performed. Based upon this data, DEP is exploring the feasibility of conditional closure for this site.

The real property owner (RPO) has agreed that conditional closure would be acceptable. However, since it appears that the groundwater plume also affects City and CSX Railroad rights-of-way, a risk management option level III (RMO-III) closure would be required, with RCs for the RPO and both the City of Jacksonville and the CSX Railroad. DEP has contacted both the city and the railroad to discuss this option and negotiations are ongoing.