

Maucher Property
2950 Keck Road
Molino, Florida
County: Escambia
District: Northwest
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: November 7, 2002
HWC # 135

Site Description and History

The Maucher Property site is located at 2950 Keck Road in Molino, Florida in Section 17, Township 02N, Range 31W at 30° 41' 21.8030" N, 87° 22' 25.8438" W, in an area characterized predominantly by agricultural and residential land use. The site is located on a private residence owned by Mr. Walter Maucher (now deceased) who reportedly purchased various military surplus supplies at auctions beginning in the early 1970's and stored them on the subject property. Materials stored on site included: damaged drums, old tires, scrap metals, paint, paint remover, primer, batteries, transformers, liquid-filled electrical switches, photographic chemicals, combustible and corrosive liquids, morpholine, trichloroethene (TCE), and other substances, many of which were unlabeled and unable to be identified. A number of corroded drums had reportedly leaked liquid contents onto the ground. The stored material was distributed throughout a 1.5-acre area, with approximately ¼ of the property considered to be contaminated.

Upon the death of Mr. Maucher, his wife allowed scrap dealers to haul away some of the materials, but they refused to remove any potentially hazardous substances from the site. Since many of the materials had originated at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, the DEP negotiated with the Navy to remove some of the items. In November 1997, the Navy removed 200 drums, containing potentially hazardous solid or liquid materials from the site. The DEP inspected the site in February 1998, and confirmed that all potentially hazardous materials had been removed. Mrs. Maucher subsequently notified the DEP that she was financially unable to pay for site assessment and cleanup.

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) was conducted by the DEP in March 1999. No groundwater or soil samples were collected during this assessment, but the site and surrounding areas were examined to assess any exposure pathways. The PA confirmed that observed releases to surface soils likely contaminated the groundwater. The site was recommended for further evaluation.

Threat

This site posed a threat to the underlying aquifer, a source of drinking water for much of Escambia County. A public supply well operated by Molino Utilities is located within 1 mile of the site. Additionally, a small stream is located approximately 650 feet east of the site, which might reasonably have received contaminant runoff. This stream leads to Cow Devil Creek and eventually to the Perdido River. Fisheries and sensitive environments are encountered within

that surface water system. Ground water was contaminated primarily with TCE and to a lesser extent with naphthalene and 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane.

Response Strategy and Status (June 2013)

The Maucher Property was approved as a state funded cleanup site in November 2002. In April 2003, the DEP issued a work assignment to Arcadis Geraghty & Miller, Inc. (AG&M) for an Initial Site Assessment Work Plan. A phased approach was planned to identify both soil and groundwater impacts from potential contaminants.

A Site Assessment for the initial phase of assessment was completed in December 2003. This investigation showed apparent widespread contamination of TCE in onsite groundwater. Lesser contaminants detected in groundwater included naphthalene and 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane. Only minor contamination (primarily metals) was discovered in soils. In Early 2004, a second phase of site assessment was conducted to delineate groundwater contamination and further investigate the soils. This work was successful in delineating the boundaries of the groundwater plume. The TCE plume was approximately 850 feet long and reached a depth of approximately 55 feet. The plume extended off the Maucher property and was slowly migrating toward the Molino Utilities supply well. Soil investigations determined that metals contamination was most likely attributed to background concentrations rather than site related activities. Additionally, laboratory testing concluded that the metals did not pose a threat to leach into the groundwater.

In April 2005, AGM conducted an air sparge pilot study for groundwater remediation. They also further investigated soils in an attempt to determine the source of the TCE. They concluded that site and plume conditions were amenable to air sparge technology and recommended implementation of a full-scale design. Additionally, an area beneath a large scrap metal waste pile appeared to contain soils contaminated with TCE and was likely the source area. AGM recommended removing the waste pile and excavating these contaminated soils.

DEP requested AGM to conduct an interim remedial measure consisting of a drum removal of 50+ drums remaining on site from the Navy's investigation. Most of the drums were found to contain a non-hazardous sealing compound but a variety of other substances, some hazardous, were detected as well. This drum removal was completed in May 2005.

DEP signed a Decision Memo for the site on January 27, 2006. The remedial strategy outlined in the Decision Memo called for excavation of contaminated soils and air sparging for contaminated groundwater.

The area of TCE contaminated soils was delineated and the overlying junk pile removed. One area of the site that slightly exceeded standards for arsenic was also delineated. Arcadis conducted a removal of these contaminated soils, as well as a pile of over 700 tires, in January 2007. One partially filled drum was discovered hidden in the tire pile. The drum was determined to be non-hazardous and was removed from the site. All known direct contact health

risks were eliminated from the site. DEP approved a Final Remedial Action Plan for contaminated groundwater in August 2007.

The air sparge remedial system commenced operating in July 2008 and functioned satisfactorily according to the design. As of June 2010, only one offsite monitor well showed slightly elevated levels of TCE. Operation of the remedial system was terminated in October 2010 and the site proceeded to Post Active Remediation Monitoring. In February 2012, the remedial system and utility infrastructure was removed from the site.

Schedule

Two consecutive quarters of groundwater sampling have been below groundwater cleanup target levels. DEP plans to delist the site without conditions. A completion order is pending.