United Metals, Inc.

1690 State Road 71
Marianna, Florida
County: Jackson
District: Northwest
Site Lead: EPA
Placed on National Priorities List: April 30, 2003
HWC # 152
ERIC ID # 3922

Site Description and History

The United Metals, Inc., site is located in Township 03N, Range 09W, Section 06 at 30° 41′ 15.4015″ N, 85° 10′ 20.9849″ W, in Marianna, Florida, approximately 2.5 miles south of Interstate 10 and approximately 1,000 feet east of State Road 71. From 1979 until 1991, United Metals, Inc., processed and reclaimed used lead-acid and nickel-cadmium batteries within a 24-acre fenced area at its Marianna facility. In 1981, the facility processed as many as 10,000 to 12,000 batteries per week, resulting in 2,500 gallons of acidic wastes per day. Until the early 1980s, treated and possibly untreated wastewater from the recycling process flowed into a settling basin, then into concrete basins, and finally through a ditch to an unlined holding pond. A second holding pond was constructed to provide additional capacity, but allegedly was never used. The wastewater system eventually was modified so that the wastewater was stored in tanks, eliminating the discharge to the holding pond. The holding ponds subsequently were abandoned, dredged, and backfilled in early 1983. Dredged sediments from the holding ponds and from contaminated drainage ditches were stockpiled in the recycling building on site.

In August 1981, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) and United Metals, Inc., entered into a Consent Order that required numerous actions to be undertaken, including the evaluation of the wastewater system, identification of environmental problems, completion of a limited ground water assessment, and proposal of corrective actions.

In July 1986, EPA conducted a RCRA program inspection, identifying persistent violations including improper closure of the holding ponds following sediment removal, improper storage of hazardous wastes, inadequate ground water monitoring, and operating without appropriate permits for hazardous waste storage and treatment. As a result of these violations, EPA issued an Amended Complaint and Compliance Order. United Metals, Inc. discontinued recycling operations and sold the facility to Anrich Industries, Inc. Anrich subsequently renovated the facility and began battery-cracking operations in May 1991. After the identification of several RCRA violations during a Hazardous Waste Inspection of the facility in May 1991, FDER ordered that all operations cease in July 1991.

A Site Inspection in June 1993 and an Expanded Site Investigation completed in 1994 included the collection of soil samples and the installation of five monitoring wells, and confirmed the presence of lead at significant levels in facility soils and in the drainage ditch that flows into the wetland area. In March 1995, the EPA Removal Assessment Team conducted a site visit to determine the site's eligibility for a removal action. EPA collected six surface soils samples, four waste samples from 55 gallon drums and three storage tanks, and two water samples to identify the nature and extent of contamination and to identify the immediate threat to the public and

environment. Along with lead contaminated soils, flammable liquid was discovered in drums, and 800 gallons of sulfuric acid was found in an onsite storage tank. As a result of these findings, EPA initiated limited removal activities of these 55 gallon drums in January 1996, and returned in March 1996 to complete the removal of the above ground storage tank containing the sulfuric acid.

Threat

Past operations have resulted in release of lead, cadmium, and other metals onto facility soils and along a drainage route to a nearby wetland. Prior to the remedial construction, contaminated soils and sediments posed a direct contact threat, acted as a source of groundwater contamination, and posed a potential threat to a downstream recreational fishery and adjacent wetlands. Metals contamination, since removed, was documented in the wetland, which also serves as a habitat for the Flatwoods Salamander, a federally listed threatened species. While the surficial aquifer typically is not used a source of drinking water in the area, groundwater contamination in that aquifer limits its potential future use.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2016)

The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) on April 30, 2003. Prior to listing, the EPA initiated a Remedial Investigation to delineate the extent of soil and groundwater contamination so that a final cleanup strategy can be selected and implemented at the site. The draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report was circulated for comments in April 2003. DEP recommended additional onsite sampling to better delineate the soil and groundwater contamination. This additional sampling has been completed and the final RI Report was approved by DEP on February 23, 2006.

A third EPA removal action, consisting of removal and offsite disposal of contaminated soils and sediments from the former holding ponds stored in the main structure onsite was completed in early 2006.

A Record of Decision (ROD) was completed and signed by the EPA on September 28, 2006. The ROD selects excavation of soils exceeding 400 mg/kg lead with onsite stabilization and solidification. The primary onsite soil contaminants are lead, antimony, arsenic, and cadmium. Offsite soil and sediment contaminants are located along a drainage ditch and a wetland located east of the property. The primary sediment and soil contaminant is lead. The ecological sediment removal goal for lead is 36 mg/kg in the wetland areas. The groundwater remedy includes Natural Attenuation Monitoring (NAM), with the option of an active remedy at a future date (injecting additives to bind the metal contaminants to the soil), if concentrations do not continue to decline to levels below MCLs within a reasonable period of time or if the plume continues to expand/migrate. The DEP concurred with the ROD on May 7, 2007. Institutional and engineering controls will be necessary as contaminated material will remain onsite in the monolith and groundwater contaminant concentrations exceed groundwater cleanup target levels. The remedial design (RD) was completed and approved in September 2008. A State Superfund Contract (SSC) was signed in June 2009. Excavation of contaminated soils and construction of a monolith has been completed. Work generally progressed well; however, the excavation uncovered areas where

battery chips and other debris were improperly disposed and significantly increased the volume of contaminated soil and debris to be excavated above the RD estimate. Some of the soil/debris was treated and disposed of offsite as hazardous or non- hazardous waste, as appropriate. This additional volume necessitated a second amendment to the SSC before site work could be completed. This amendment was signed by DEP on March 23, 2011.

The Final Post-Remedial Action Inspection was conducted on June 21, 2011. The only finding during the inspection was the need to install signage along the monolith fence line with warnings & emergency contact phone numbers. A second inspection was held on May 21, 2012 to confirm that corrections had been made. DEP recommended that the vegetative cover on the monolith be fertilized, which was completed by the EPA's contractor in June 2012. The property was sold in April 2012, without the implementation of institutional controls to run with the deed with the former owner or the implementation of a Bona Fide Prospective Purchasers Agreement with the new owner.

A Restrictive Covenant (RC) was signed by the new owner and the DEP and was recorded by the Jackson County Clerk of the Court on September 25, 2013. The RC restricts use of the monolith area, as well as two small areas of contamination located under existing buildings, and establishes groundwater restrictions for the contaminant plume onsite.

Schedule

An option for a groundwater remedy was included in the ROD and SSC, however, preliminary groundwater data indicates that groundwater contamination is attenuating and an active remedy may not be required. EPA continues to monitor the groundwater at the site and is planning on adding additional monitoring wells in one area, near the former office building, where the groundwater does not appear to be attenuating. DEP has assumed O&M responsibilities for the fenced-in monolith. Five-year reviews of the remedy and institutional controls will be required since waste will remain onsite in perpetuity.