

Musselman Steel Corporation
1711 20th Street
Tampa, Florida
County: Hillsborough
District: Southwest
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Accepted for Cleanup: July 6, 2005
ERIC ID # 3898

Site Description and History

The former Musselman Steel Corporation (MSC) is located at 1711 20th Street, Tampa, Florida in the northeast quarter of Township 29S, Range 19E, Section 30 at 27° 56' 12.3376" N, 82° 26' 16.2776" W, on Hooker's Point peninsula. The original property boundaries of the site encompassed approximately 10.6 acres. The site has since been divided and sold to various owners. Historical site layouts divided the site into four parcels (A-D). Based on the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's website, the northernmost parcel (Parcel C) has been subdivided with multiple ownership. The surrounding area is an urban mixture of heavy industrial/commercial and residential properties. The property is bordered one block to the northeast by a residential subdivision, 0.5 miles to the west by a heavy industrial area (port of Tampa) and Sparkman Channel, to the south by an industrial area and Hillsborough Bay (2 miles), and 0.25 miles to the east by McKay Bay.

The site was owned by MSC and operated as a metal fabrication facility for structural steel from 1952 to 1992. Site activity included sand blasting, painting, forming, welding, and finishing steel. The main industrial activities appear to have been conducted on Parcels A and B. The corporation filed bankruptcy and shut down operations in December 1992. The bankruptcy proceedings were completed in August 1993, and the site was abandoned in the fall of 1993.

Threat

The soil contains high levels of lead and arsenic. Due to the proximity of a residential area and poor posting and fencing of the site, the soil exposure pathway is of primary concern. A groundwater plume with elevated levels of vinyl chloride was identified in the area of the former underground storage tank (UST) during assessment. There are no potable wells located within the contaminant plume.

Response Strategy and Status (July 2021)

In April 1992, an anonymous complaint about the property was filed with the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (HCEPC). As a result, HCEPC conducted three inspections between April 2 and June 1, 1992 detailing numerous violations. HCEPC requested a Preliminary Contamination Assessment Plan (PCAP) be drafted to provide a summary of required field activities. In May 1992, one 1,000-gallon diesel UST and two 1,000-gallon gasoline USTs were removed, along with approximately 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil. A Closure Assessment/Initial Remedial Action Report associated with the UST excavation was submitted to the HCEPC by Mevers and Associates.

A contamination assessment was completed by Mevers and Associates for the Underground Storage Tank area, and the findings reported to HCEPC in January 1993. Groundwater constituents detected were benzene, chlorinated solvents and other Volatile Organic Aromatics (VOAs).

A supplemental assessment was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) in March 1993. In March 1994, Consent Order No. 93-4774 was mailed to the owner of MSC, but was returned as “unable to deliver”. The company filed for bankruptcy without notifying FDER. In December 1996, the DEP Southwest District Office submitted a request to the DEP Bureau of Waste Cleanup to consider MSC for state-funded cleanup. The site was added to the State Funded Cleanup Program Site list in February 1998.

A&G Investments took over ownership of a large portion of the property (Parcels A, B, and D) in 1998 and was subsequently issued written notification of the contamination on the property in December 1998. The property owner expressed willingness to remediate the property resulting in the site being deleted from the State-Funded Cleanup site list on June 8, 1999 and returned to the Southwest District Office for oversight, since there was new ownership of the property.

From 1999 to 2008, A&G Investments performed periodic groundwater monitoring of the solvent plume. The groundwater plume concentrations in 1999 consisted *cis*-1,2-dichloroethene and vinyl chloride above the groundwater cleanup target levels. In 2006, the vinyl chloride concentration in monitoring well MW-1 increased to 17,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L).

Based on the vinyl chloride concentration in MW-1, a source removal was performed in February 2006, by Solana Environmental. Several old sections of pipe were discovered within the backfilled area of the original petroleum storage tank removal. According to the report, the pipe had a strong solvent odor. Approximately 212 tons of soil were removed. Post remedial sampling was conducted in June 2006. Monitoring well MW-1 was reinstalled to a shallower depth. In 2008, the property owner requested approval for no further action, and the DEP denied this request.

In July 2007, HSA Engineers & Scientists developed a site assessment work plan to address contamination in the northern area of the site. Historical information indicated the area was utilized for storage of battery casings and that no assessment or remedial efforts had occurred on this parcel. The proposed assessment work for the northern area of the site was postponed to allow for a review of property ownership, and investigation into potential responsible parties.

In June 2009, DEP referred this site to the EPA to address contaminated soil. In September 2009, the EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team began a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE). The RSE found lead and arsenic contaminant concentrations above the removal action levels for commercial/industrial land use, and the site was recommended for a removal action under EPA’s Superfund Removal Program in February 2010. The EPA Emergency and Rapid Response Services completed emergency removals in two areas of the site located on Parcels A and C. This removal action was completed in August 2012.

The EPA entered into an Administrative Order with Tampa Electric Company for the excavation of lead contaminated soil on a section of Parcel C. This removal action was completed in August 2013 by Tampa Electric Company with EPA oversight.

Based on assessment activities on Parcels A, B, and D, vinyl chloride is present in the groundwater in the vicinity of the former UST area. Lead was detected in one groundwater sample above the MCL but does not appear to be a site wide groundwater issue. Lead and arsenic were detected above sediment quality assessment guidelines in sediment samples collected from a stormwater swale on Parcel D. Surface water samples collected from the swale exceeded the MCL for lead. Arsenic and lead were present in concentrations above the MCL on Parcels A, B, and D.

The assessment on Parcel C was completed as an addendum to the assessment on Parcels A, B, and D. Arsenic and lead were detected in soil exceeding the MCL on Parcel C. Site contaminants of concern including lead, arsenic, chlorinated volatile organic compounds, and total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons were not detected in groundwater samples collected from Parcel C.

The Site Assessment Report for Parcels A, B, and D and the Site Assessment Report Addendum for Parcel C were approved in January 2014 and June 2014, respectively. Recommendations in the reports included developing an interim source removal plan to address remaining contaminated soil at the site and closing the site with groundwater and soil use restrictions.

The Interim Source Removal Work Plan for Parcel D was approved on June 20, 2014. The interim source removal for Parcel D was completed in November 2014. The interim source removal for Parcels A, B, and C was completed in December 2015. Site restoration was completed in July 2016.

Post active remedial groundwater monitoring was completed in January 2017, and the site has been shown to meet risk-based closure requirements. Groundwater monitoring will continue until all properties agree to site restrictions. In August 2018, the Department sent correspondence to the current property owners suggesting site closure and draft restrictive covenants.

Schedule

The Department proposes an institutional control to limit land use to commercial/industrial for the entire site and an additional restriction on groundwater use for Parcels A and D. The DEP project manager will reach out to property owners with updated status of closure.