

Callaway & Son Drum Service
890 East Lake Drive (US Highway 17-92)
Lake Alfred, Florida
County: Polk
District: Southwest
Site Lead: EPA
Placed on National Priorities List: May 11, 2000
Delisted: August 4, 2009
ERIC ID # 3914
HWC # 144

Site Description and History

The Callaway and Son Drum Service facility is located on 9.5 acres at 890 East Lake Drive, also called US Highway 17-92, in Lake Alfred, Polk County, Florida in Section 33, Township 27S, Range 26E at 28° 05' 53.0409" N, 81° 42' 58.5479" W. A family run business, owned by Mr. Ronald Callaway, operated on the site from 1977 until 1991 as a refurbisher and recycler of used oil, solvent, and citrus drums. Production activities conducted on the site included cleaning drums with a resin solution, rinsing the drums in a 600-gallon fresh water tank, sandblasting, and painting. The facility processed approximately 100 spent oil drums per week, and stored as many as 60,000 drums on-site.

Operations ceased in 1991 and, in 1994, the facility was auctioned and sold due to failure to pay back taxes. The site includes three major structures, which are now in dilapidated condition: a former office building; a drum cleaning structure; and a sandblasting and painting structure. A one-acre pond, which received rinse water from drum cleaning operations, is located east of the drum cleaning structure. Along the eastern and southeastern portion of the site is a drainage ditch that eventually discharges into Lake Haines. Lake Haines is located approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the site.

In December 1985, a gasoline pipeline owned by Central Florida Pipeline ruptured north of the facility, spilling approximately 40,000 gallons of unleaded fuel onto the Callaway site. The spill primarily affected the eastern portion of the property. Central Florida Pipeline performed a cleanup of the spilled fuel and several monitoring wells were installed as part of the ensuing investigation.

Threat

Various past onsite sampling events to assess soils and shallow groundwater have detected a wide variety of chemicals including benzene, toluene, xylenes, and lead. Studies have determined that all hazardous substances detected in groundwater samples were related to disposal practices and/or drum processing activities from the facility. The Superfund remedial investigation indicated that soil and groundwater contamination was limited to low concentrations on the Callaway property, and that the 2001 drum removal (see below) addressed the majority of the historic on-site contamination. The site is currently unoccupied, and there are no private wells onsite.

Response Strategy and Status

The Callaway site was placed on the National Priority List (NPL) in May 2000. The EPA contractor, Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp, submitted a draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) work plan in December 2000. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the EPA performed a technical review of the documents and provided specific comments to the EPA in February 2001.

The RI fieldwork was delayed while the EPA searched for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). No PRPs were found. The EPA conducted an emergency response drum removal at the site in December 2001. Over 2,000 drums were removed as part of this action; fewer than 80 drums were determined to be hazardous.

Black & Veatch completed the fieldwork and submitted a draft Remedial Investigation report in June 2002. The report indicated that soil and groundwater contamination was very limited, at low concentrations, sporadic in nature and confined to the site. Metals, predominantly iron, with lesser arsenic, chromium, cadmium and vanadium were detected in on-site soils. Groundwater samples from the surficial and Floridan aquifers contained sporadic levels of primarily iron, chromium, manganese, and sodium. Some volatile organic compounds were also detected at low levels in the surficial aquifer. There did not appear to be a discernable groundwater contaminant plume. Low levels of metals, mainly iron, zinc, and lead, were detected in surface water samples primarily along the western side of the onsite pond. Iron was the most prevalent inorganic compound detected in sediments with lesser aluminum, cadmium, chromium, and manganese. Two ditch samples and one pond sediment sample contained low levels of some pesticides.

The EPA and DEP reviewed the draft RI for technical accuracy, and requested various corrections and/or clarifications. In September 2003, upon request from DEP, the EPA conducted resampling of soils and sediments in certain onsite areas where previous analytical results indicated some contaminants might remain. The resampling results were non-detect for all contaminants of concern.

Additional groundwater sampling indicated that soils do not appear to be leaching contaminants into the groundwater. Also, one well that had slightly elevated levels of arsenic is now below standards. However, onsite soils remained a concern due to an obvious volatile odor in certain disturbed areas and a large number of “unknown” or “unidentifiable” contaminants noted during the RI.

Additional soil samples were collected and sent to EPA specialists for further analysis. This study was successful in identifying some of the unknown compounds, primarily pesticides and some volatiles. Not all compounds identified were determined to be toxic.

Further analysis of the unknown soil contaminants compared the unknowns to similar or surrogate compounds. Upon re-sampling previous soil “hot spots,” all these surrogates were detected well below residential and industrial standards, although some samples appeared to exceed leaching criteria.

Two quarters of groundwater monitoring were conducted in 2007. This sampling searched specifically for those surrogate compounds that might be suspected to leach to groundwater. No contaminants were detected during these sampling events.

In September 2007, the EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for No Further Action (NFA). A formal concurrence letter from DEP on the NFA Record of Decision was signed January 14, 2008.

The site was deleted from the National Priorities List in August 2009. Five-Year Reviews to ensure the remedy remains protective will commence in 2012.