

Tortuga, Inc./Nations Bank/BE Bradenton Site
4515/4592-4601 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL
County: Manatee
District: Southwest
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Accepted for Cleanup: April 10, 2015
ERIC ID # 3972

Site Description and History

The Tortuga, Inc./Nations Bank/BE Bradenton site consists of two adjacent properties (parcels) located in a commercial/ industrial area of Bradenton, Manatee County in Township 33S, Range 18E, Section 12 at 27° 27' 30.3209" N, 82° 32' 44.4524" W. A ready-mix concrete distributor is located north of the site with a CSX railroad right-of-way east of the site, a used car dealer and construction supply business south of the site and undeveloped property across 15th St. west of the site.

The Tortuga, Inc. site has been in operation under various owners since 1957. From 1957 to 1972, the site was owned by Manoco-Locke Mowers which painted and welded parts for the manufacturing of lawnmowers. In 1972, the property was purchased by Palmetto Pump. The site was used from 1972 to 1986 to store pipes and irrigation fixtures, complete pipe fittings and threading, and to service the company's trucks. During the period from 1972 to 1986, a fuel above ground storage tank (AST) was registered with the DEP. Several different spa manufacturing companies operated at the site from 1990 to 1994. In 1995, a patio furniture company and a wicker furniture company operated at the site. The site is presently inactive and is owned by East 15th Street, Inc.

The BE Bradenton Property site was developed around 1959. The onsite two-story office/warehouse was occupied by the H. Butler Footware, Inc. as of November 1992. The one-story warehouse/manufacturing building was occupied by COW Industries, Inc. The COW building was constructed in 1959. The COW building has been occupied by businesses which reportedly manufactured industrial electrical switches from 1959 to 1967. From about 1969 to 1974, the COW building was used to manufacture holiday decorations. Between 1974 and 1992, the COW building was used for the manufacturing of cabinets and ophthalmological workstations. This site is also presently inactive and is owned by BE Bradenton Properties LTD. Bank of America, NA, successor to Nations Bank, holds a financial interest in this property.

Threat

High concentrations of chlorinated solvents and their breakdown products were detected in subsurface soils and ground water collected in the vicinity of formerly oil-soaked soil at the boundary between the two properties. Ground water contamination apparently originating in that area, vertically extends into both unconfined and confined groundwater and horizontally extends from the area of soil contamination to near the western and southern boundaries of the former Tortuga property. A petroleum-related plume of contaminants also exists in on-site ground water, but that contamination is presumably due to CERCLA-exempt fueling operations.

No onsite population exists, other than workers, and no sensitive environments are located onsite. A few remotely located potable wells, serving a small population, exist within 4 miles of the site. A small canal and an onsite retention pond, located near the western border of the site, presumably receive potentially contaminated runoff and/or ground water discharge from the site. The retention pond is land-locked and the canal runs several miles southeastward through Bowlees Creek and into Sarasota Bay. Several fisheries and sensitive environments are situated in the bay; however, the bay is subject to the diluent influence of tidal activity and principal site attributable contaminants are not bio-accumulative and exhibit low aquatic toxicity. No fisheries or sensitive environments are associated with the onsite retention pond.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2020)

A consent order with the Tortuga, Inc. property owner required them to pay \$60,000.00 into the Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund (WQATF) in April 2000. A consent order with BE Bradenton was signed for the southern property, obligating the owners to perform cleanup activities. Site assessment was completed and a multi-phase extraction system was designed, but the design was never implemented. A Modification to Consent Order (MCO) for this property was recorded with the Manatee County Clerk of the Court on October 8, 2013. This MCO obligates BE Bradenton and the Bank of America to pay \$147,402.70 into the WQATF, in lieu of completing the remedial action. The final payment was made in late 2015, after which the department assumed the responsibility for completing the cleanup.

In December 2016, sampling of the existing monitoring wells was tasked. Based on the results from the existing monitoring well network (19 of the original 38 wells were found on a preliminary site visit), an expanded site assessment work plan has been developed and tasked in FY18 to characterize and delineate the site. A small interim source removal was performed in July 2018 to address arsenic-contaminated soils found onsite.

Schedule

A Groundwater Remedial Action Plan for Biostimulation/Bioaugmentation (Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination) is being reviewed by FDEP.