

Florida Fence Post
5251 SR 64 West
Ona, Florida
County: Hardee
District: South
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Approved for Cleanup: May 11, 1987
ERIC ID # 5574

Site Description and History

The Florida Fence Post site is located at 5251 SR 64 West, Ona, Florida in Section 33 of Township 34 South, Range 24 East at latitude 28° 28' 53.1151" N, and longitude 81° 55' 15.8916" W. This site is located on the southwest corner of State Road 64, known locally as Florida Cracker Trail and Hardee County Road 663, also known as Post Plant Road. The facility operates as a wood treatment facility and has been operating since 1946. From 1946 through the present, the wood treatment process has included pressure treating with the use of creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and chromated copper arsenate (CCA).

The plant processing area is located in the northeast portion of the plant which includes above ground storage tanks (ASTs), pressure vessels, previously used creosote dipping vats, a process water retention vat, and treatment drip pads. This area also previously contained an underground storage tank (UST) reportedly containing leaded gasoline, which was removed in 1988. There is a stockpiled soil storage area located in this area at the northwest corner of Post Plant Road and the CSX railroad tracks.

Threat

Soil sampling data indicate that the soil stockpiled in area designated as solid waste management unit (SWMU) #3 consists of approximately 1,500 cubic yards of K001 (hazardous) wastes. The stockpile was formerly covered by a pole barn, but the structure was destroyed in 2004 by Hurricane Charlie and since that time, has been covered by a 60-mil thickness high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner. These soils currently stored in SWMU #3 originated from previously excavated materials, including process and treatment waste sludges from SWMU #1 and waste pit sludges from SWMU #6.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2020)

On July 5, 1989, the site was found eligible for state cleanup of petroleum contamination under the Early Detection Incentive (EDI) Program. The EDI application was filed following a Discharge Notification From, dated November 16, 1988, following the discovery of petroleum contamination during the removal of a 550-gallon UST that was reported to contain leaded gasoline, however, subsequent reports have referenced the UST containing diesel fuel.

Site Assessment activities were conducted by Hastings Environmental Consulting Group from 1989 through 2004. A Level 4 Site Assessment Report (SAR) was completed in April 2001, a Level 4 SAR II was completed in April 2002, and in December 2004, a Supplemental Site Assessment Report was completed. Assessment activities found that total recoverable petroleum

hydrocarbons (TRPH), volatile organic aromatics (VOAs), and PAHs in both soil and groundwater exist in the area of the former tank location. Discussions included in the assessments questioned the widespread presence of PAHs and their relation to the UST at the site. It was reported that creosote contains naphthalene and that diesel fuel is commonly added to creosote to create a mixture for pressure treating wood.

In 2001, the Final RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) was completed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The RFA concluded that the site has 31 SMWUs and contamination was detected in soil, sediment, and groundwater. The contaminants at the site include dioxins, furans, PCP, creosote, copper, chromium, and arsenic.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a Consent Order on March 24, 2017 to the owner for undertaking closure activities and corrective actions. In September 2017, the site was referred for funding under State Cleanup.

An Interim Source Removal of 2100 tons of hazardous waste from SMU #3 stockpile was tasked in early 2019. The stockpile was transported to Quebec, Canada for disposal. A total of 2,098.76 tons of contaminated soil was transported and disposed offsite as well as a total of 660 tons of contaminated limerock roadbase.

Schedule

The Site Assessment was conducted in 2020. Additional assessment will be needed in order to delineate the soil and groundwater contamination. Additional assessment activities are planned for 2021.