

# Pennsylvania

## Department of Environmental Protection

November 2014

### HIGH QUALITY PROJECT UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("Department") wants to keep the community informed about its actions at the High Quality Polishing and Plating Site ("Site"), located in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, PA. The Department is utilizing this Fact Sheet to summarize and explain the Site Characterization work that has been conducted by The Department's Environmental Cleanup & Brownfields Program and planned action for the Site.

#### Site Background & History

The High Quality Polishing & Plating Site is located off Routes 100 & 29 in the village of Zionsville, Lehigh County. From the early 1960's to 1983, the Site was operating as a polishing and electroplating facility. Two unlined accessible lagoons located behind the building were used in the disposal of process waste, which included solvents and acids. One of these lagoons was connected to Indian Creek, which borders the Site less than 50 feet away. After the owner (Clarence Esterley) and then his wife died in the early 1980's, operations ceased and the Site was vacant. Raymac Investments Ltd. of Lafayette Hills, PA purchased the property in August 1995 at a county tax sale. Raymac transferred the property deed to CMSG, Inc. of Macungie, PA in November 2000 and is the current owner.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an emergency removal action in 1986 and removed the abandoned

hazardous wastes that were contained in drums and vats. EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA), a Site Inspection (SI) and an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) between 1987 and 1993 that documented on-site contamination in the surface soils, groundwater and residual wastewater in the building.

#### Potential Hazards

The Site poses the following potential hazard to human health and the environment:

Onsite groundwater is contaminated above state drinking water standards for Trichloroethene (TCE), Tetrachloroethene (PCE), Chromium and Nickel. Off-site migration of TCE has been detected in two residential well water supplies above state drinking standards. The potential for further off-site migration exists.

#### Department Action To Date

The Department completed a site characterization to better define the location and concentration of contaminants. This information was used to determine the need for and type of further cleanup. The Final Site Characterization Report was completed in April 2001 and included in the Administrative Record for the Site.

Two private well water supplies down-gradient of the Site detected TCE above the federal and state drinking water standards. To remove the TCE, the

Department installed activated carbon treatment units to these affected residences in April 2001.

A cleanup action was completed within the High Quality property from March to October 2002. All the vats/tanks in the building along with the residual waste were removed. The building, which deteriorated over the years, was torn down and removed. The contaminated soil under and surrounding the building and lagoon area was removed and disposed at a permitted disposal facility.

The Department has completed its analysis of alternatives to remediate the groundwater plume. The Department chose chemical oxidation (Sodium Permanganate) injection as the alternative to treat the onsite source area of the plume. Natural attenuation processes (dilution, dispersion, etc.) would remediate the remainder of the plume. Initial treatment of the contaminant plume began in January 2008.

## **Department Planned Action**

The Department recently found a "hot spot" area of TCE-contaminated soil approximately 15-20 feet deep on the Site. A removal action of approximately 400 cubic yards of contaminated soil is planned for early December 2014. Trucks will be hauling the soil and water from the site and will about two weeks to complete.

After the soil removal, the Department will continue injection of sodium permanganate into the subsurface beginning in late December 2014 or January 2015.

Subsequent groundwater monitoring will be performed afterwards to determine if the oxidant is destroying or decreasing the TCE concentrations. A determination will be made to whether to continue future oxidant injections.

The Department will continue to monitor private well water supplies in and surrounding the groundwater plume originating from the Site. If any private well water supply exceed the federal and state drinking water standard for site-related contaminants, the Department will provide a point-of-entry treatment system.

## **Who's Who**

Ronald Schock is the Department's Project Manager for the Site. Any questions regarding the Site can be directed to Mr. Schock of the Department's Environmental Cleanup Program at (610) 861-2070 (Bethlehem Office).

Colleen Connolly is the Community Relations Coordinator for the DEP Northeast Regional Office. Any questions from the media can be directed to her at (570) 826-2511.

Tetra Tech of King of Prussia, PA is the Department's prime contractor for the groundwater remediation.