

GENZALE PLATING COMPANY

New York

EPA ID# NYD002050110

EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 04
Nassau County
Franklin Square on Long Island

Site Description

The ½-acre Genzale Plating Company site comprised a metal-plating facility, an attached two-story office building and an undeveloped backyard area which served as a parking lot and storage area. Beginning in 1915 through 2000, the facility electroplated small products such as automobile antennas, parts of ball point pens, and bottle openers and is known to have discharged wastewater containing heavy metals as well as organic contaminants into four sub-surface leaching pits at the rear of the site. Although the facility was connected to the municipal sewer system in 1955, a 1981 Nassau County Department of Health (NCDH) inspection found that industrial wastewater continued to be discharged into the on-site leaching pits. The company was ordered by NCDH to cease the discharge and began, but never completed, the excavation of sludge and contaminated soils from the pits. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted an investigation of the Genzale site in 1983 to determine the potential threat to public health posed by potential off-site migration of contaminants into the groundwater. As a result of this investigation, the site was added to the NPL. The site is situated in a densely populated residential area. There are seven supply wells located within one mile of the site. The nearest, the Franklin Square Water District well, is 1,400 feet southeast of the site. This water district supplies water to approximately 20,000 people. Another 32,000 people are supplied by West Hempstead-Hempstead Water District wells which are located within 3 miles of the site. The site is above Long Island's sole-source aquifers for municipal and private water supplies.

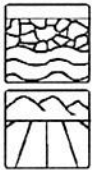
Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/01/86

Final Date: 07/01/87

Threats and Contaminants



Chromium, cadmium, and nickel were detected in both on-site and off-site groundwater monitoring wells. In addition, on-site wells showed contamination by volatile organic compounds (VOCs). However, residents are not at risk of drinking this contaminated groundwater water as they receive their drinking water from public water supplies which are routinely tested to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.

Cleanup Approach

This site has been addressed in two stages: two long-term response actions focusing on cleanup of the on-site soils and groundwater, and the investigation of downgradient groundwater.

Response Action Status



Previous Actions: In 1982, the potentially responsible party partially completed sludge removal and soil excavation from the leaching pits.



Site Soils and Groundwater: In 1988, the EPA initiated the first phase of an investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The study indicated that on-site soils and groundwater were contaminated with both inorganics and organics. In early 1991, a remedy was selected and documented in a Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy included the treatment of contaminated soils by soil vapor extraction (SVE) for organics contamination, followed by excavation and off-site treatment of soils for metals contamination. The design of the selected remedies was begun in late 1991. The design of the soil remedy was completed in September 1994. EPA had entered into an Interagency Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the soil remedy. Construction activities for the soil vapor extraction unit were completed in July 1995. After approximately one year of operation, in May 1996, confirmatory soil sampling established that the soils had reached clean-up levels for organics and the unit was shut down and dismantled. EPA performed detailed sampling of the soils following the SVE action in order to delineate the metal contamination in a precise fashion. The excavation of soils contaminated with metals was completed in the fall of 1997.

In May 2000, the Genzale plant ceased operations. The facility set aside funds for the decommissioning of the operational part of the site and the removal of the wastes generated during the decommissioning. The wastes were exported off-site for disposal. Decommissioning activities were completed in June 2000. Following the cessation of operations at the facility, EPA sampled the soil and groundwater underlying the vacated plant building. This sampling indicated the presence of additional inorganic and organic contamination. Based on the additional contamination found underneath the former plant building, EPA performed air monitoring in nearby residences, and some homes located immediately adjacent to the former plant were found to have elevated levels of TCE. Three homes adjacent to the site had observed levels of TCE vapors above acceptable health-based

levels and treatment systems were installed. Before the SVE system was installed, the former plant building was demolished to the basement structure so that the SVE system could be installed. This was performed in the Summer of 2003 and the SVE system has been operating since that time. Subsequent ambient air samples in the homes have shown this system to be effective in reducing the vaporous TCE contamination in the affected homes. Once this SVE system has removed the site-related VOC contamination from the Site, the remainder of the building will be removed and the metals-contaminated soils will be excavated.

Prior to implementing the design for the groundwater remedy, EPA undertook a groundwater sampling program to determine the extent to which the soil remediation had effected groundwater contaminant levels; it was determined that significant contamination remained in the groundwater. EPA subsequently entered into an Interagency Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to complete the design of the groundwater remedy. EPA has directed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to continue with the design of a more conventional groundwater extraction and treatment system. The system will be installed after the contaminated soils are remediated.



Downgradient Groundwater: Based on the results of the initial investigation, a second investigation was conducted to study groundwater contamination downgradient of the site. The study was completed in early 1995. The nearby water supply wells were determined not to be at risk of contamination and off-site groundwater remedial action was not warranted. This decision was documented in a September 1995 ROD.

Cleanup Progress



After adding the Genzale Plating site to the NPL, EPA conducted an initial evaluation and determined that no immediate actions were needed.

A SVE unit operated from May 1995 to July 1996, when soil clean-up levels, as mandated by the ROD, were achieved. Approximately 32,000 tons of soils were cleaned up. About 50 pounds of volatile and semivolatile organics were removed during the SVE operation.

In June of 1995 all on-site debris behind the facility was removed and taken off the site.

During the summer of 1997 more than 5,500 tons of soil contaminated with metals were removed from the site and replaced with native sand.

In May 2003, EPA demolished the former plant building and the debris was taken off the site. EPA is currently operating a soil vapor extraction unit to address the contamination underlying the former plant building and designing a groundwater extraction and treatment system to ensure the safety of the water supply in the site area. The Remedial Design for the groundwater extraction system is expected to be completed by March 2004. The construction of the remedial action is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the winter of 2005.