Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation

Decision Document

Gentle As A Lamb Cleaners
North Merrick, Nassau County
Site Number 1-30-060

April 1996

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
GEORGE E. PATAKI, *Governor* MICHAEL D. ZAGATA, *Commissioner*

DECISION DOCUMENT

"GENTLE AS A LAMB CLEANERS"
North Merrick, Nassau County, New York
Site No. 1-30-060

SECTION !: SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Gentle as a Lamb cleaners is located on a 50 foot by 100 foot parcel at 1828 Merrick Avenue, in the Town of North Merrick. The building foot print is approximately 25 feeet by 45 feet, and a paved parking area covers the remainder of the property. A cesspool was formerly located in the southwest corner of the property, approximately 15 feet south of the building. Please refer to Figure 1.

SECTION 2: SITE HISTORY

2.1 Operational/Disposal History

The property was vacant until the mid 1960's when the existing building was built as a dry cleaning drop-off. From the mid 1960's to 1990 the site was used as a dry cleaning facility. Soil samples were taken in June of 1991 from the site cesspool by the Nassau County Department of Health Services (NCDHS). Results of the sampling indicated that tetrachloroethene (PCE) was present in the cesspool. The PCE is believed to have been discharged between 1987 and 1990, when Gentle As A Lamb Dry Cleaners operated at the site. In 1994 the property was sold to Mr. Chris Zucker of Captains Aquarium. In November 1994 the site was placed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site.

2.2 Remedial History

The cesspool was cleaned out under the direction of the NCDHS in June of 1991. The cespool was then backfilled with clean fill and was paved with asphault..

SECTION 3: CURRENT STATUS

3.1 Summary of the Site Investigation

In June of 1994 a site assessment was conducted by the previous owner's consultant. Ground-water and soil samples were taken with GeoProbe equipment, including samples taken from the area of the former cesspool Soil samples taken in 1994 in the vicinity of the cesspool detected trace levels (a maximum of 1.9 ppb) of PCE and laboratory results for ground-water indicated concentrations of PCE ranging up to 1,400 parts per billion (ppb). Results of the investigation indicated that soils above the water table were not impacted in the vicinity of the former cesspool. This is indicative of proper cleaning of the cesspool. Based on these results, the NYSDEC required additional investigations to determine the extent of PCE contamination of the groundwater.

On August 10, 1995 the site owner's consultant collected a total of eight (8) ground-water samples at four (4) locations using a van-mounted GeoProbe unit. Sample locations were selected based on a regional groound-water flow direction of south-southeast. The GeoProbe unit pneumatically advanced 1-inch diameter probes to the selected depth below the water table. The water table was encountered at approximately 13 feet below ground surface at the time of the investigation. Because the target compounds, PCE and Tetrachloroethene (TCE) are dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) or "sinkers", both shallow and deep ground-water samples were collected. Shallow samples were taken in the range of 15 to 19 feet below ground surface and deep samples were taken in the range of 38 to 43 feet below ground surface. Due to the tight, compact nature of the sediments (fine, silty sands), probe locations at GP-1 and GP-2 could not be advance beyond 39 and 38 feet, respectively. Once sampling depth was achieved the probe was retracted to deploy a stainless steel intake screen 2 feet in length. Ground-water sampling locations GP 1 through GP-4 are shown in Figure 1.

Ground-water samples were screened in the field with a portable gas chromatograph (PGC) unit and a photoionization detector (PID). Samples were forwarded to a New York State Certified Laboratory, and split samples were obtained by NYSDEC personel for in-house analysis. Laboratory results are summarized in Table 1. No PCE or TCE was detected in ground water in the area of the former cesspool. Concentrations of PCE in offsite groundwater samples ranged from non-detectable (less than on ppb) for GP-1, GP-2 and GP-4 to 33 ppb in GP-3.

3.1.1 Nature of the Contamination

The major contaminant at this site is PCE originating from dry-cleaning operations carried out at the site between 1987 and 1990. The total amount is unknown. The source of the contamination has been removed, and dry-cleaning is no longer performed at the site.

3.2 Interim Remedial Measures

Interim remedial measures undertaken at the site include the cleaning and paving-over of the on-site cesspool in 1991.

3.3 Summary of Human Exposure Pathways

The primary pathway for human exposure for this site is through ingestion of groundwater. A public supply well is located more than 1,500 feet downgradient (southwest). This well is pumping from a depth of 440 feet and routine sampling of this well has shown no contaminants. Off-site ground-water sampling has shown very limited PCE migration with the only detection being 33 ppb in shallow ground water 30 feet offsite. Samples collected further downgradient showed no detections of PCE. This indicates that the site does not threaten drinking water supplies and does not present a significant threat to human health.

3.4 Summary of Environmental Exposure Pathways

Based on the results of the remedial investigation, the site no longer constitutes a threat to the environment.

SECTION 4: ENFORCEMENT STATUS

The PRP did not sign a Consent Order.

SECTION 5: BUREAU OF EASTERN REMEDIAL ACTION ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the results of investigations performed at the site, the Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action (BERA) recommends no further remedial action for the site. Additionally, the BERA recommends that the site be reclassified to a class 4 site. Because levels of PCE in groundwater immediately downgradient of the site are in excess of Standards, Criteria and Guidance (SCG's) for drinking water, the BERA recommends that the groundwater at the site be monitored at three locations (one up-gradient and two down-gradient) for a period of two years on a semi-annual basis.

Table 1
Summary of Compounds Detected in Ground Water Samples

Sample ID	TCE	PCE	TCA	1,1-DCA	Benzene	Total Xylenes
GP-1 (17'-19')	ND	ND	ND	ND	14.0	ND
GP-1 (39'-41')	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
GP-2 (17'-19')	ND	ND	ND	ND	13.0	ND
GP-2 (38'-40')	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
GP-3 (15'-17)	ND	33.0	ND	ND	ND	ND
GP-3 (48'-50')	ND	ND	ND	5.6	ND	ND
GP-4 (15'-17')	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	7.9
GP-4 (41'-43')	ND	ND	5.6	7.5	ND	ND
Trip Blank	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Note: Samples were analyzed with EPA Method 624. Results are in parts per billion (ppb).
"ND" Refers to compounds not detected above the laboratory method detection level of one ppb
TCE = Trichloroethylene = Trichloroethene
PCE = Tetrachloroethene
TCA = Tetrachloroethane = 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane = 1,1,2,2 TCA

Figure 1

Gentle as a Lamb

1828 Merrick Avenue

Town of North Merrick