



Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation

Arba Dry Cleaners
Site Number 1-30-062
Levittown
Nassau County, New York

Record of Decision

March 1996



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

DECLARATION STATEMENT - RECORD OF DECISION

Arba Dry Cleaners Inactive Hazardous Waste Site Levittown, Nassau County, New York Site No. 1-30-062

Statement of Purpose and Basis

The Record of Decision (ROD) presents the selected remedial action for the Arba Dry Cleaners inactive hazardous waste site which was chosen in accordance with the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). The remedial program selected is not inconsistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan of March 8, 1990 (40CFR300).

This record is based upon the Administrative Record of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for the Arba Dry Cleaners inactive hazardous waste site and upon public input to the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) presented by the NYSDEC. A bibliography of the documents included as a part of the Administrative Record is included in Appendix B of the ROD.

Assessment of the Site

This site does not present a current or potential threat to public health or the environment.

Description of Selected Remedy

Based upon the results of the Remedial Investigation for the Arba Dry Cleaners site and the criteria identified for evaluation of alternatives, the NYSDEC has selected the No Further Action alternative for this site.

New York State Department of Health Acceptance

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) concurs with the remedy selected for this site as being protective of human health.

Declaration

The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, is designed to comply with State and Federal requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action to the extent practicable, and is cost effective. The remedial actions that have already been completed at this site have resulted in the reduction in the toxicity and mobility of the wastes to the extent necessary to prevent future impacts to public health or the environment. This remedy utilizes permanent solutions and alternative treatment or resource recovery technologies to the maximum extent practicable, and satisfies the preference for remedies that reduce the toxicity, mobility, or volume of the wastes.

3/29/96
Date



Michael J. O'Toole, Jr., Director
Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation

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RECORD OF DECISION

"Arba Dry Cleaners" Levittown, Nassau County, New York Site No. 1-30-062 March 1996

SECTION 1: SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Arba Dry Cleaners is located at 701 Newbridge Road in Levittown, Long Island, Nassau County, New York. The site is a dry cleaner located in a small shopping mall near the southeast corner of Bench Lane and the Levittown Parkway. Please refer to Figure 1.

SECTION 2: SITE HISTORY

2.1: Operational/Disposal History

Arba Dry Cleaners has been operating as a dry cleaner since November 1, 1976. An unknown quantity of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) from a 80 gallon storage tank was spilled into the basement floor drain in April 1988, as a result of a fire which caused a plastic nozzle on the tank to melt. Water used to put the fire out exacerbated the contamination. Soil samples taken from underneath the drain (4/88 and 1/89) by the Nassau County Department of Health indicated contamination. Subsequent groundwater samples (12/19/89) also revealed contamination. In June of 1990 Geneva Associates (the site owner) presented a report on remedial investigations conducted at the Arba Dry Cleaners site during the previous two years. At that time, there were three (3) groundwater monitoring wells present on or near the site. Additional wells were installed in 1991 and 1992 bringing the total to seven. Please refer to Figure 2 for location of the monitoring wells. In March of 1993 the site

was placed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a class 2 site. The results of groundwater sampling carried out at the site in 1990, 1991 and 1992 are summarized in Table 1.

2.2: Remedial History

Remedial measures undertaken at the site included removal of contaminated material, closure of the basement drain and repaving the basement floor, all undertaken in 1989.

SECTION 3: CURRENT STATUS

In January of 1995 the site owner submitted a workplan for the site, the field work for which was carried out under the NYSDEC's oversight during the week of April 3, 1995. The final report for the investigation was submitted on May 25, 1995.

3.1: Summary of the Remedial Investigation

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation was to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. The Remedial Investigation was conducted during April 1995. A report entitled Results of Work Plan Implementation Site Code No. 1-30-062, dated May of 1995 was prepared by Geneva Associates describing the field activities and findings of the Remedial Investigation in detail. A summary of the Remedial Investigation follows:

The Remedial Investigation activities consisted of the following:

- *The integrity of the seven monitoring wells present at or near the site was checked. Each of the wells was found to be functioning correctly.*
- *The location and elevations of all wells were surveyed and located on a drawing.*
- *Groundwater samples were collected from the seven monitoring wells.*
- *Soil samples were taken from the vicinity of the basement drain.*
- *A search of the vicinity of the site was conducted to identify and locate private drinking water wells. No wells were found.*
- *Soil and groundwater samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds.*

The analytical data obtained from the Remedial Investigation was compared to applicable Standards, Criteria, and Guidance (SCGs) in determining remedial alternatives.

Groundwater, drinking water and surface water SCGs identified for the Arba Dry Cleaners site were based on NYSDEC Ambient Water Quality Standards and Guidance Values and Part V of the NYS Sanitary Code. For the evaluation and interpretation of soil and sediment analytical results, NYSDEC soil cleanup guidelines for the protection of groundwater, background conditions, site conditions, site history, and risk-based remediation criteria were used to develop remediation goals for soil.

The only volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination found in the groundwater wells at Arba Dry Cleaners during the April 1995

sampling was 3.4 ppb of tetrachloroethylene (in Monitoring Well MW-3) and 1,1 dichloroethene, which was found at levels of 2 ppb in well 3D.

The results of the April 6, 1995 groundwater sampling are summarized in Table 1.

The soil samples were all free of VOC contamination. Only methylene chloride was found in the trip blank and the equipment blank, attributable to laboratory contamination.

The soil samples obtained for laboratory analysis in January of 1989, at depths ranging from one to five feet, exhibited levels of tetrachloroethylene ranging from 158 ppm at the one-foot depth to 17 ppm at a depth of 5 feet. However, during the recent testing, in April 1995 none of the soil samples exhibited any degree of contamination at the surface or in the soil samples obtained at depths of 15 and 19 feet (soils in the 1 to 5 foot range were removed). It is postulated that the surface contamination identified in 1989 was removed during the very limited degree of cleanup that occurred when the floor in the basement was repaved and the drain closed, and any remaining contamination has dissipated due to volatilization.

The contamination previously measured in the groundwater has dispersed into the substantial groundwater flow that exists in the area of the subject property.

3.1.1 Nature of Contamination:

The contamination at the site consisted of an unknown quantity (presumably eighty (80) gallons or less) of tetrachloroethylene, spilled into a drain located in the basement of the subject property.

3.2 Interim Remedial Measures:

Interim remedial measures undertaken at the

site include closure of the basement drain removal of soil from the drain area and repaving the basement floor, undertaken in 1989.

3.3 Summary of Human Exposure Pathways:

The primary pathway for human exposure for of this site is through ingestion of groundwater. Based on the results of the remedial investigation in comparison to the SCGs and public health and environmental exposure rates, the site 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 NYSDEC and Geneva Associates (the site owner) entered into a Consent Order on March 24, 1995, index # 1-W1-0706-94-08. The Order obligates the responsible party to implement a RI/FS. The above order is the only order on record between the NYSDEC and Geneva Associates.

SECTION 5: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Concerns of the community regarding the PRAP were evaluated. A responsive summary describing these concerns and detailing how the Department addressed or will address these concerns is attached as Appendix A. The selected remedy is identical to the one contained in the PRAP and presented at the public meeting that was held on March 14, 1996.

SECTION 6: SUMMARY OF THE REMEDIAL GOALS AND SELECTED ACTION

The selected remedy for any site should, at a minimum, eliminate or mitigate all significant threats to the public health or the environment presented by the hazardous waste present at the site. The State believes that the remediation now in place, which is described in section 3.2, has accomplished this objective.

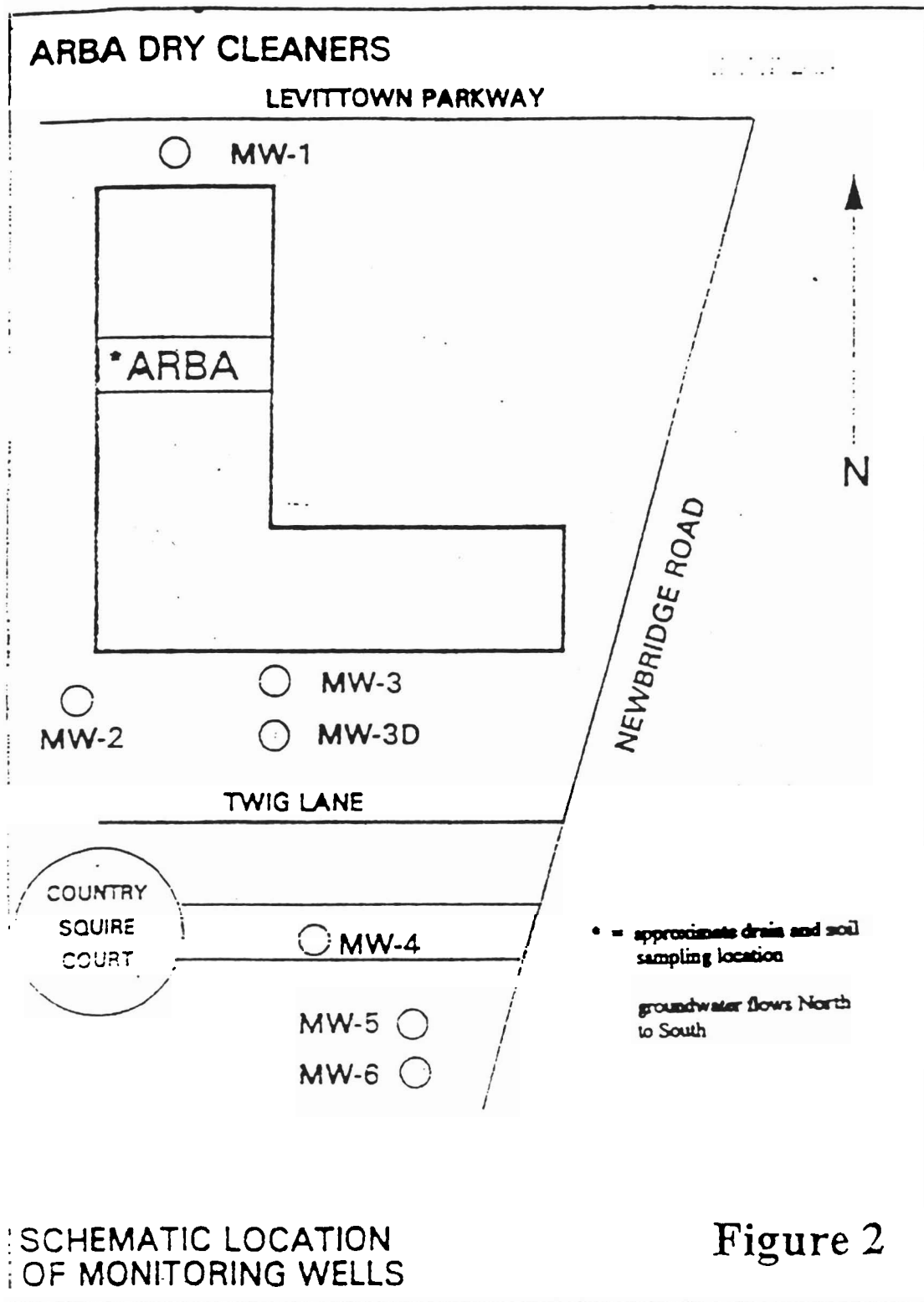
Based upon the results of the RI and previous investigations that have been performed at the site, the NYSDEC is selecting no further action as the remedial alternative for the site. The NYSDEC has published its proposal to delist the site from the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the March 13, 1996 Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB). The ENB notice provides a comment period from March 13 to May 13, 1996. If, during the comment period, comments requiring the Department to reconsider its delisting position are not received, the Department will also delist the site from the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites.

**ARBA DRY CLEANERS
SITE ID: 1-30-062**

TABLE 1

Groundwater Sampling Results

		Tetrachloroethene (ppb)				
	01/16/90	02/13/91	06/07/91	03/10/92	04/06/95	
MW-1	26	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	
MW-2	160	16	3	< 1	< 1	
MW-3	1,800	12	25	23	3.4	
MW-4	< 1	860	670	140	< 1	
MW-5	< 1	130	70	9	< 1	
MW-6	< 1	5	1	1	< 1	
MW-3D	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	



APPENDIX A

Responsiveness Summary Arba Dry Cleaners Site No. 1-30-062

This document summarizes the comments and questions received by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regarding the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the subject site. A public comment period was held between February 24 and March 25, 1996 to receive comments on the proposal. A public meeting was also held on March 14, 1996 in the Levittown Hall Auditorium to present the results of the investigation and to present the PRAP.

This Responsiveness Summary is comprised of verbal comments and questions obtained during the March 14, 1996 meeting and comments received by telephone during the comment period. NYSDEC did not receive any written comments.

The following comments and questions are taken directly or paraphrased from the meeting.

- 1C. The public was never officially notified about the problems and remedial activities at Arba Dry Cleaners until this meeting. Why not? What steps have been taken since 1988 to streamline this process?
- R. The initial remedial response was carried out under the supervision of the Nassau County Department of Health. This response included the removal of contaminated soils from the drain area, and the installation of groundwater monitoring wells. The site was placed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal sites in March of 1993. Normally, the DEC would have mailed a public notice or held a public meeting immediately after the field investigation conducted in 1995. Since the field investigation did not discover significant soil or groundwater contamination, it was decided to hold a combined meeting to present both the investigation results and the proposed remedy.
- 2C. Drums were stored behind Arba Dry Cleaners during the late 1980s and early 1990s. What was contained in these drums? If the drums leaked, would there have been a threat to human health?
- R. It is our understanding that the drums contained soils and groundwater from the drilling of the monitoring wells at the site. The threat to human health would be minimal as long as no one ingested or came into prolonged contact with the waste. The drums were removed from the property in January 1995.

3C. Could area residents have been exposed to toxic fumes?

R. Pertaining to the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) spill which occurred in 1988, the solvent was spilled onto the basement floor of the dry cleaning facility and was washed down a floor drain by the water used to put out the fire. The solvent spill itself did not have a toxic release to any other area except that of the dry cleaning store above the basement. Due to the location of the spill, it is highly unlikely that residents were exposed to PCE vapors.

It is also highly unlikely that residents to the west of the site could be exposed to soil gas contaminated with PCE. PCE is heavier than water and will readily sink. The groundwater flow in the area is to the south southeast, carrying contamination away from these homes. The soil contamination was concentrated around the floor drain, which has been removed along with the contaminated soil near the drain. The diameter of the spill, measured by the PRP's consultant, was less than two feet. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that nearby homes (which are at least 40 feet away) would be contaminated with soil gas.

4C. Are air emissions from dry-cleaners regulated?

R. The current regulations 6NYCRR part 232 limit the amounts of PCE allowed to be released to the air to a level of 100 ppm.

5C. Could PCE have migrated to the west through the groundwater and affected the properties immediately behind the fence separating Arba Dry Cleaners from the nearby residences?

R. Groundwater flow is generally to the south southeast in the area in question. Therefore, given the small amount of PCE spilled, it is unlikely that any contaminant would have migrated in the direction of these properties. Further, PCE is heavier than water, and would not return to the surface even if it were to migrate through the groundwater in the direction of these houses.

6C. Several trees in the area are dying. Could this be caused by PCE contamination from Arba Dry Cleaners?

R. Contaminant concentrations found downgradient of Arba Dry Cleaners would not be a threat to plant life. Groundwater in this location is at a depth of approximately fifty feet, beyond the reach of most tree roots.

7C. Please do not delist the site. Monitoring of the site should continue.

- R. Levels of contamination found during the Remedial Investigation do not justify a requirement for further monitoring. Contaminant levels in both soils and groundwater are within applicable New York State standards or guidelines and do not pose a threat to human health or the environment.
- 8C. Does the DEC check the sampling results of the contractor hired by the PRP?
- R. The field investigation by the PRP's consultant in April 1995 was overseen by the DEC staff. The DEC took split samples with the consultant for several sampling locations at this site and had them analyzed in the DEC lab in order to be sure that the consultant's sampling results were accurate. The DEC's results were comparable to the results obtained by the consultant.
- 9C. Why were soil samples not taken in area yards after the fire?
- R. There was no apparent mechanism for contamination to reach surface soil in the yards of area homes. The contaminant spill occurred in the basement of Arba Dry Cleaners. It is unlikely that contamination could leave the building by any route other than the basement drain.
- 10C. Could contaminants be spread to area yards by water pumped by the Fire Department in April of 1988.
- R. This is unlikely because the spill occurred in the basement of the building. Most of the contamination went down the basement drain.
- 11C. Why was the site listed as a Class 2 site in 1993?
- R. The Class 2 listing was due to high levels of PCE found in groundwater samples taken in 1990, 1991 and 1992. The sampling undertaken in 1995 showed that PCE levels were greatly reduced, and were below applicable New York State Standards.
- 12C. The standard of 5 ppb for PCE contamination in drinking water is too lenient.
- R. Comment noted. The Department of Environmental Conservation bases its decisions on current New York State Standards.

APPENDIX B

Arba Dry Cleaners 1-30-062

1. Consent Order #1-W1-0706-94-08, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
2. Soils and Groundwater Investigation, Arba Dry Cleaners, Richard D. Galli, P.E., P.L., February, 1989.
3. Supplemental Work Plan, Arba Dry Cleaners, Energy and Environmental Analysts, Inc. January 1995.
4. Results of Work Plan Implementation, Arba Dry Cleaners, Energy and Environmental Analysts, Inc., May 1995.