

ROTOREX PROPERTY
Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland

Site Location

The 214-acre Rotorex property, located at 8301-B Retreat Road in Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland, is approximately two miles northeast of the City of Frederick in a primarily rural, agricultural area. The property is bounded to the north, north west and south by the Monocacy River. Fort Detrick is located across the river. A few residences are located on Retreat Road and Fountain Rock Road to the east of the property. The property is zoned for Limited Industrial and Resource Conservation use.

Site History

The first developed use of the property was as a manufacturing plant for residential air conditioner compressors by Rotorex in 1972. The remainder of the property is still in agricultural use for grain crops. The plant area is limited to a 15-acre portion of the property with access restricted by a fence. The property includes a rail line and an abandoned spur that entered the plant until 1972. The plant was used to manufacture electrostatic air cleaning units for residential applications. Manufacturing processes included machining, painting, and degreasing processes. The degreasing process included the use of solvents, such as trichlorofluoromethane prior to 1990 and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) to clean and degrease the rotary pump parts via immersion. A chromium rinsing process was also used in preparation for painting. The Fedders plant ceased manufacturing operations in 2001 but continued distribution activities until August 2003 when they began decommissioning the facility.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

In the mid-1990s, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in groundwater pumped from on-site water supply wells. Additional investigations determined that soils near the two degreaser locations were impacted with VOCs as well.

In April 1996, water samples collected by MDE from the water supply system confirmed the presence of TCA, trichloroethene (TCE) and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCA) above the Maximum Contaminant Levels.

In May 1996 through 1998, additional investigations of soil, surface water and groundwater were completed. VOCs were identified in soils in the vicinity of the parts washer and drum storage areas. Surface water samples identified no contamination in the Monocacy River down stream of the property. Additional samples from the property's water supply wells that identified VOC contamination up to 300 feet in depth. Dichlorodifluoromethane and trichlorofluoromethane were also detected in the groundwater.

In 1997, four domestic wells near the property were tested and no contaminants were detected. These four domestic wells are upgradient of the property.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

In 2001, a soil gas survey was completed in the vicinity of the parts washers and drum storage area. Twenty-seven soil gas samples were collected that further delineated the extent of VOC contamination beneath the plant building.

Current Status

The property is currently used for agricultural purposes and for storage and repair of trailers. An application and work plan were submitted to the Voluntary Cleanup Program on November 1, 2004 by the Rotorex Company, Inc., the current property owner. The application and work plan are currently under review.

Site Repository

Project files are located at MDE's offices at 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230.

Facility Contacts

Contact Name	Contact Organization	Contact Telephone #
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