

EPA Completes Cleanup & Nearby Residential Study

Williamson Polishing and Plating Site

Indianapolis, Indiana

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For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information regarding the Williamson Polishing & Plating Site contact these EPA team members:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently completed a cleanup at the former Williamson Polishing & Plating facility as well as finishing a study of the nearby residential neighborhood's soil vapor and groundwater situation. The cleanup was called a "time-critical removal" because federal law allows EPA to take immediate action when pollution poses an imminent health threat to people. During the cleanup the Agency removed and disposed of abandoned hazardous waste at the property. EPA also decontaminated plating equipment, vats, tanks, piping, and other parts used for plating.

In a separate but related activity to safeguard human health, EPA conducted a study that entailed sampling groundwater and soil vapor in residential areas near the plating facility. "Groundwater" is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. "Soil vapor" refers to gases released by underground pollutants that are trapped in between dirt particles. The purpose of the sampling was to determine if trichloroethene, known as TCE, and other related chemicals found at the facility had affected the residential areas.



The section outlined in yellow is the approximate boundary for the former Williamson Polishing & Plating facility in Marion County, Indiana.

In groundwater, TCE was detected above the screening level. "Screening level" is a chemical concentration considered protective of humans over a lifetime. However, because groundwater in the area is not used for drinking or bathing, it does not pose a significant risk. In soil vapor, TCE was also detected, but all concentrations were below the screening level. EPA also found acrolein in samples taken in the residential area, but not in samples collected at Williamson Polishing &

Plating. Acrolein can be formed when trees, tobacco, plants, gasoline, and oil are burned. EPA is not planning to take any additional action at the Williamson Polishing & Plating site because a completed vapor intrusion pathway could not be established, acrolein could not be attributed to the site, and TCE did not exceed the screening level in soil vapor.

Site history

Williamson Polishing & Plating Co. Inc. was a plating shop located on 2080 Dr. Andrew J Brown Ave. in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood of Indianapolis. The business operated from 1937 to 2016. The facility conducted job shop polishing and electroplating services by plating brass, cadmium, copper, chrome, nickel, silver, tin, zinc, bronze, and nickel finishes on various surfaces. The site is vacant but contains a 14,651-square-foot building.

Summary of activities

EPA's involvement at the site began after the Marion County Public Health Department received a complaint about abandoned chemicals left at the facility. MCPHD conducted an exterior inspection last year and found violations, including improper storage of a hazardous material. MCPHD then conducted an inspection of the facility's interior and found abandoned waste in drums, plating vats, tanks, and small containers. The state agency temporarily secured the building.

In late 2016 EPA took emergency actions to secure the facility following break-ins. On Nov. 29, 2016, EPA signed an action memorandum to conduct the removal

action. Last December EPA began removing contaminants at the location.

From April 24-28 this year, EPA conducted a groundwater and soil gas sampling study in the nearby residential areas to determine if chemicals from the former plating facility had affected the neighborhood.



The Orange rectangle shows the area where the groundwater and soil gas sampling was conducted.

By mid-May, EPA finished removing the abandoned hazardous waste inside the Williamson property, completed decontaminating the facility and announced the results from the groundwater and soil gas sampling.

EPA Completes Cleanup & Nearby Residential Study WILLIAMSON POLISHING & PLATING SITE:

FIRST CLASS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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