

## Site Redevelopment Profile

# Piper Aircraft Corp./Vero Beach Water & Sewer Department

Piper Drive and Aviation Boulevard, Vero Beach, Florida 32960

### Property Overview

#### Size

80 acres

#### Current Site Uses

- Manufacturing facility for small commuter and business planes.
- Several airport support businesses are also located on site.

#### Use Restrictions

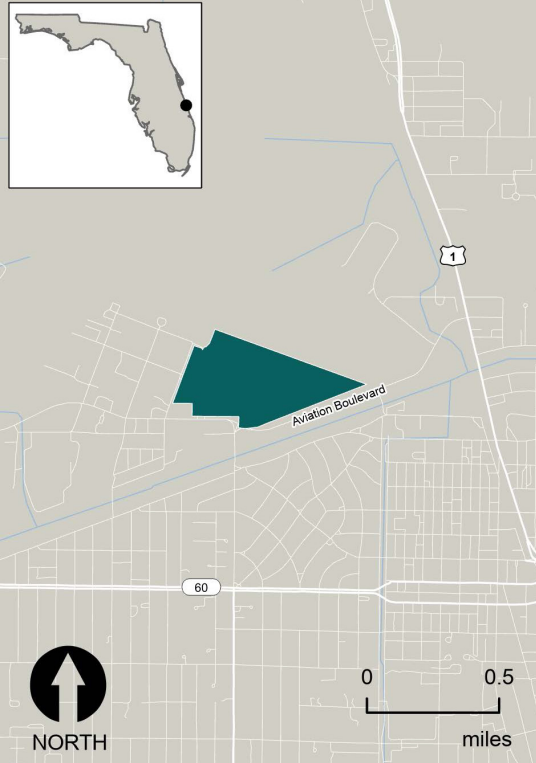
- Since 2009, institutional controls on site restrict groundwater use
- Land use is restricted to commercial and industrial use.
- Access to two small groundwater treatment areas is restricted.

#### Surrounding Population

**3,463**  
1 MILE

**44,500**  
3 MILES

**82,715**  
5 MILES



A map of the site in Florida.

### Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

#### 1975

Piper Aircraft began manufacturing airplanes and installed a TCE tank and supply system on site.

#### 1978

VBWSD found contamination in a well near the site.

#### 1979

VBWSD, Piper Aircraft and FDEP installed a groundwater pump-and-treat system.

#### 1980

Piper Aircraft signed a Consent Agreement with EPA for cleanup of the site.

#### 1984

FDEP conducted site investigations.

#### 1986 - 1988

EPA conducted site investigations.

#### 1989

Piper Aircraft removed the TCE storage tank and treated soil on site.

#### 1990

EPA added the site to the NPL.

#### 1992 - 1993

EPA conducted further site investigations.

#### 1995 - 1997

Piper Aircraft performed site investigations to determine cleanup activities.

#### 1997

EPA selected cleanup activities.

#### 1998 - 2017

Piper Aircraft conducted cleanup activities.

#### 2017

EPA and FDEP approved discontinuation of the groundwater treatment system.

#### 2019

EPA presented stakeholders with the Region 4 Excellence in Site Reuse award.

#### Ongoing

Piper Aircraft continues to monitor groundwater.

## History and Cleanup

The 80-acre Piper Aircraft Corp./Vero Beach Water & Sewer Department Superfund site is in Vero Beach, Florida. Collaboration between EPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and Piper Aircraft led to the successful cleanup and safe continued use of the site. An active manufacturing facility for small commuter and business planes continues to operate on site.

Piper Aircraft began manufacturing airplanes on site in 1975. Underground storage tanks were used to store chemicals needed for the manufacturing process. During routine sampling in 1978, the Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department (VBWSD) detected trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in a municipal well downgradient of the site. An underground storage tank containing TCE had leaked, contaminating soil and groundwater. To address the contamination, VBWSD, FDEP, and Piper Aircraft installed a groundwater pump-and-treat system in 1979. In 1989, Piper Aircraft removed the underground storage tank containing TCE and dug up the surrounding contaminated soil. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990.

and coordinated cleanup design to ensure the site's compatibility with continued use reduced EPA's long-term stewardship responsibilities. Piper Aircraft continues to be a good neighbor in the community, protecting human health and the environment while also supporting the local economy.

The Piper Aircraft Corp./Vero Beach Water & Sewer Department Superfund site is an excellent example of how effective collaboration and planning can lead to successful cleanup and positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

## Redevelopment

With EPA and FDEP oversight, Piper Aircraft, the site's potentially responsible party, leads site cleanup activities. Piper Aircraft installed a new groundwater extraction and treatment system in 1998. In 2009, EPA updated the remedy to include institutional controls to restrict groundwater use. FDEP placed institutional controls on site using a groundwater delineation area, which requires stringent permitting and monitoring of new wells within the area. When contaminant levels dropped below Florida Natural Attenuation Default Concentration levels in 2017, EPA and FDEP approved Piper Aircraft's request to decommission the groundwater treatment system. Groundwater monitoring will continue until cleanup levels have been achieved.

Piper Aircraft continues to operate its facility on site, manufacturing small commuter and business planes. Several airport support businesses are also located on site. In addition to site cleanup, Piper Aircraft has worked to improve their overall environmental footprint, including converting diesel-fire boilers to natural gas-fire heaters and utilizing technology to reduce manufacturing waste. On June 13, 2019, EPA presented site stakeholders with EPA's Region 4 Excellence in Site Reuse award for working cooperatively with EPA Region 4 to ensure the site reuse is complimentary with remediation. Piper Aircraft's "greening" of environmental management practices

### Greening up practices for a greener community and bluer skies

Piper Aircraft has been aggressive in improving the overall environmental footprint of the company. By converting diesel-fire boilers to natural gas-fire heaters, they have eliminated consumption of over 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually and eliminated attendant emissions including particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. In addition to regular recycling of steel, aluminum, paper and cardboard, Piper Aircraft installed a cutting edge manufacturing process that reduces waste for plastic parts by an estimated 50%.

*"The cleanup has made a big impact on Piper... One of the biggest things Piper is bringing to the party now is a strong push to document all our processes and systemically eliminate more of the hazardous chemicals we used on site."*

**Ted Dyer,**  
Environmental Health and Safety Manager,  
Piper Aircraft



Recipients of EPA's Region 4 Excellence in Site Reuse award.



Piper Aircraft manufacturing facility operates on site.

## Contacts

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For more information see: [www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment](http://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment)



Airport support businesses operate on site, southeast of the Piper Aircraft facility.

