

Site Redevelopment Profile

Townsend Saw Chain Superfund Site

State Route 53 and I-20, Pontiac, South Carolina 29045

Property Overview

Size

50 acres

Current Site Uses

- Woodcreek Business Park, commercial businesses and AMBAC International, a fuel injection equipment manufacturer, are located on site.
- Additional space is available for redevelopment.

Use Restrictions

- Institutional controls prohibit the use of groundwater.
- Land uses are restricted to commercial and industrial uses.

Surrounding Population

2,057
1 MILE

17,867
3 MILES

59,244
5 MILES



A map of the site in South Carolina.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1964-1981

Two metal products manufacturers operated on site.

1982

SCDHEC conducted site investigations; Textron installed groundwater pump-and-treat system.

1990

EPA added the site to the NPL.

1995-1996

Textron removed contaminated soil and disposed of it off site.

1996

EPA selected final cleanup activities.

2000

Textron began groundwater treatment.

2001

EPA determined soil met land use standards and required no further cleanup.

2002

Centerline Development, LLC purchased the property.

2007

EPA updated the final cleanup activities.

2009

Textron conducted pilot study for bioremediation of groundwater.

2009

EPA's SRP provided support to evaluate SWRAU criteria for the site.

2010-2019

Textron groundwater using bioremediation technology.

2013

EPA found the site met SWRAU criteria.

2019

EPA deleted a portion of the site from the NPL; a small area of groundwater remains on the NPL.

Ongoing

Groundwater monitoring.

History and Cleanup

Since the early 1980s, EPA has worked with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and Textron, Inc., the site's potentially responsible party (PRP), to clean up the 50-acre Townsend Saw Chain Co. Superfund site and return it to beneficial use.

Starting in 1964, a metal products manufacturer operated on part of the site. In 1971, the Townsend Saw Chain Division of Textron, Inc. began manufacturing saw chain parts on site. From 1964 to 1981, both facility operators disposed of wastewater generated from facility operations on site. The SCDHEC conducted site investigations in 1982 and determined improper waste disposal practices had led to the contamination of soil and groundwater. With oversight by SCDHEC, Textron installed a groundwater pump-and-treat system. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990.

After the site was added to the NPL, EPA, SCDHEC and Textron conducted further site investigations. In 1993, EPA issued an interim Record of Decision (ROD) outlining cleanup activities. With oversight from EPA and SCDHEC, Textron began cleanup activities. EPA issued a final ROD in 1996. Cleanup activities included excavation and disposal of contaminated soils, surface soil treatment, operation of a groundwater pump-and-treat system and groundwater monitoring.

In 2007, EPA issued an amended ROD updating the cleanup plan to include construction of a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) to treat groundwater contamination and prevent contaminants from migrating off site. EPA's update required institutional controls to prohibit groundwater use, restrict land use on site to commercial and industrial uses, as well as restrict land use off site to protect the PRB. After determining the PRB would be ineffective at remediating groundwater and would limit land use off site, Textron did a pilot study to determine if bioremediation would be effective. Bioremediation – using bacteria to render contamination insoluble and immobile – is a natural process used to clean up sites.

Since 2019, groundwater contamination has been eliminated in all but three monitoring wells. As a result, EPA deleted 49 acres of the 50-acre site from the NPL. EPA also removed land use restrictions on the 49 acres, allowing for unrestricted use. The area within the three monitoring wells will remain on the NPL until cleanup is complete. Groundwater monitoring is ongoing. Some advantages of bioremediation include reduced energy intensity and the ability to treat groundwater without having to dig, pump and transport it off site. Textron's study found the bioremediation method to be as effective as the PRB. EPA approved the new cleanup measure. By 2013, the area of groundwater contamination had been reduced by nearly 87%, from 9.2 acres to 1.2 acres.



Carolina Boatworks of Columbia operates commercial boat retail on site.



Detention pond on site.

Redevelopment

In 2009, EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Program (SRP) and Region 4 supported a regional seed project at the site. The regional seed project evaluated if the site met criteria for the Sitewide Ready for Anticipated Reuse (SWRAU) performance measure, and if not, steps needed for the site to meet SWRAU. In 2013, the site met SWRAU criteria.

Early cleanup actions allowed for the redevelopment of 35.5 acres of the site by Centerline Development, LLC (Centerline) in 2002. Centerline divided the 35.5 acres into various sizes for commercial development and retains ownership of the remaining 14 acres. Currently, the site hosts a variety of commercial uses including a veterinary hospital, kennel, hotel, auto-body shop, retail and restaurants. The Woodcreek Business Park provides additional office space on site. Additionally, AMBAC International (formerly American Bosch), a manufacturer and supplier of fuel injection equipment, operates at the former Townsend manufacturing facility.

The cleanup of the Townsend Saw Chain Superfund site shows how meaningful participation from site PRPs can aid in the cleanup process. Collaboration between EPA, SCDHEC and Textron and innovative cleanup measures have turned this formerly contaminated site into a vibrant commercial and industrial business complex that is protective of human health and the environment.

Contacts

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For more information see: www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment



AMBAC operates at the former Townsend Saw Chain manufacturing facility.