

NPL Site Narrative for Cornell Dubilier Electronics, Inc.

CORNELL DUBILIER ELECTRONICS, INC. South Plainfield, New Jersey

Conditions at Proposal (September 1997): The Cornell Dubilier Electronics Inc (CDE) site consists of a 25-acre property on Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey. CDE tested transformer oils on the property for an unknown period of time until the company vacated the property in 1961. The property is currently occupied by the Hamilton Industrial Park, which consists of approximately 15 small industries. It has been alleged that during CDE's period of operation, the company dumped transformer oil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) directly onto site soils. A former employee has claimed that the rear of the property was saturated with PCB-contaminated transformer oils and that transformers were also buried behind the facility during the same time period. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) personnel visited the site on March 12, 1985 and noted in the back of the facility contained a black soil unnatural to the area. In 1988, a response letter was delivered to the NJDEP by a law firm representing CDE, which indicated that small accidental leaks or spills of PCBs occurred at the site property and that liquid-liquid-vapor degreasers were utilized during processes conducted at the site. Trichloroethylene (TCE) was the degreasing agent admitted to be used. The letter also indicated that residual wastes from the on-site processes may have been landfilled on the site property. NJDEP personnel noted that four large black tanks were present on the edge of a large filled-in area situated in the rear of the site. The tanks were at the top of an embankment leading down to the unnamed tributary to Bound Brook. Five large tanks were observed in this area by EPA on March 30, 1994 and again on June 8, 1994. The tanks were removed from the site prior to the HRS sampling event.

Several metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and a PCB were detected in the soil and sediment samples collected as part of a September 11, 1986 Site Inspection (SI). Soil, surface water and sediment samples were also sampled as part of a SIP conducted by EPA on June 8, 1994. The results indicated concentrations of PCBs and TCE in the site soils significantly above background levels. From a sampling event conducted on February 29, 1996, PCB, alpha-Chlordane, and TCE were detected in the site soils sampled at levels significantly above background. PCBs were detected in sediment samples at levels significantly above background.

The PCB contamination detected in the sediments of the unnamed tributary to Bound Brook documents the actual contamination of a surface water body. Additionally, the actual contamination of greater than 0.1 mile of wetland frontage in the unnamed tributary to Bound Brook was documented. At least two fisheries are known to exist within the target distance limit for the surface water pathway.

A significant number of people obtain their drinking water from the Middlesex and Elizabethtown Water Companies, both of which operate potable water supply wells within four miles of the site. The majority of the wells tap the Brunswick Shale Formation, although eight of Middlesex Water Company's 31 wells tap the overburden aquifer. Approximately 60 residential potable water supply wells were sampled and results indicated levels of TCE in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level established for that substance. However, there is no quality assurance/quality control documentation available for the analytical data and no monitoring wells are present on or downgradient of the CDE site that could establish the presence of

a groundwater plume. To date, 93 residences have been connected to the local municipal water supply system and future connections are planned.

Status (July 1998): On March 21, 1997 and June 9, 1997, EPA conducted sampling of the interiors of two buildings on site. Elevated levels of PCBs and metals were found. The owners were subsequently asked to take actions to reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants on-site and limit the movement of contaminants off-site. Activities conducted at the site include paving large areas of the property; shut down of a truck driving school; fencing of the site to restrict access and prevent the tracking of PCBs off-site and into the community and; installation of drainage control to limit the movement of contaminants to Bound Brook through surface water run-off.

Soil and indoor dust samples collected in October and November 1997 from residential properties adjacent to the site also indicated the presence of PCB. EPA conducted cleaning of the interiors of several homes in April of 1998. Sampling in the residential community surrounding the site was expanded to determine if health concerns exist for residents of neighboring properties and to identify areas for further investigation.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.