

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

Final Site

May 2014

WALKER MACHINE PRODUCTS, INC. | Collierville, Tennessee
Shelby County

Site Location:

The Walker Machine Products, Inc. is located at 459 Washington Street. The property is approximately 5 acres in size and situated along the south side of Washington Street east of downtown Collierville. There are several industrial properties in the vicinity; however, there is a residential neighborhood to the south, across Halley Street.

Site History:

Walker Machine produced automated machine screw products from 1953 until approximately 2002. Langley Wire Cloth has operated at the facility since 2006 manufacturing filters from wire cloth. This operation is not associated with Walker Machine Products and is not the source of contamination at the site.

Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Walker Machine Products used chlorinated solvents, including tetrachloroethene (PCE) and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA), to clean the finished products. A 1987 Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Inspection Report stated the company was draining spent solvent onto the ground and into the sewer drain in the rear of the building. An oil/water separator was used by Walker Machine Products which handled solvent waste. The primary source of soil and ground water contamination is found in the area of the oil/water separator.

Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Soil and ground water has been contaminated with PCE, TCA and their by-products. The ground water contaminant plume has migrated off-site under the adjacent industrial property-Witt International. The city of Collierville provides drinking water to residents from five drinking water plants that pump water from twelve wells. Well field #1, consisting of 3 wells, is approximately ½ mile from the site, and only ¼ mile from the documented edge of the ground water contaminant plume. This well field services 12,284 residents.

Response Activities (to date):

The EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) first investigated the site in 2007, collecting surface and subsurface soils and installing and sampling monitoring wells. From 2010 to 2012, the EPA and TDEC installed additional monitoring wells and soil gas sampling to determine the extent of soil and ground water contamination. Although the ground water contamination extends below the Witt International property, no sources of the contamination were found on the Witt International property. The source of the contamination was determined to originate on the former Walker Machine Products property.

Need for NPL Listing:

The state of Tennessee referred the site to the EPA because the ground water contamination has migrated and is approximately ¼ mile from the city of Collierville Well #1. Other cleanup alternatives were evaluated, but are not viable at this time. No other regulatory programs are able to address the ground water contamination. The EPA received letters of support for placing this site to the NPL from the state.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]