



The RACER Trust: Empowering America's Auto Communities

Flint, MI

RACER Sites 12950 & 11940

Buick City Site
902 East Hamilton Avenue
& 902 East Leith Street
Flint, MI 48550

Site Description

The entire Buick City site encompasses 354.047 acres north and south of Leith Street and is among the largest properties in the RACER portfolio. The parcels are referred to as the Northend and the Southend, with Leith Street as the dividing line. Two parcels on opposite ends of the site, totaling 58.9 acres, have been sold.

This site originally was developed in the late 1800's for the purpose of producing the 'horseless carriage'. In 1903 the Buick Motor Company was established at the site as an automobile producer, and various automotive production activities occurred at the site in the following decades. General Motors (GM) conducted operations in production facilities located in both the Northend and Southend. Production activities in the Southend ended in 1999 and the buildings were demolished in 2000 and 2002. The manufacture and assembly of various transmission and engine components continued in the Northend until 2010. Demolition of the buildings in the Northend was completed from 2010 to 2012. No further demolition activity is anticipated. The site has a mix of zoning designations, consisting of Heavy Manufacturing, Heavy Commercial, Business, and Residential.

Environmental investigation and remediation activities are under way at the site to address historic releases to soil and groundwater, as well as LNAPL (Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid) impacts including infiltration into certain site storm sewers.

Cleanup activities are performed by the RACER Trust, with the approval and oversight of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 5. The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside \$33 million for cleanup work at this site.

Environmental History

Numerous historical investigations have been performed at the site to assess soil and/or groundwater impacts. The investigations have focused primarily on LNAPL, chlorinated solvents, lead and manganese.

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In March 2000, GM signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with EPA, which formalized the requirements for a comprehensive investigation of the site, followed by appropriate corrective measures for any releases posing unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

On September 29, 2011 RACER Trust signed an updated AOC with EPA. The 2011 AOC provides for identifying and implementing the Corrective Measures identified in the Final Decision(s) issued by the EPA for the site.

Recent investigation and remediation efforts at the site have been focused on characterizing risks at 17 LNAPL areas; operating a remedial system to remove LNAPL at one area; monitoring groundwater impacts from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and select metals; addressing oil discharge from four National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permitted storm sewer outfalls; closing releases from historic leaking underground storage tanks; closing several former hazardous waste storage units; and addressing lead and polychlorinated biphenyl impacted soils.

A comprehensive Remedy Recommendation Report was submitted to the EPA in September 2014 which proposed remedies for the areas of interest at the site.

Next Steps

RACER will work with EPA as it reviews the September 2014 Remedy Recommendation report and prepares a Statement of Basis and a Final Decision for the Site, which will outline the remedies to be implemented to address the areas of impact at the Site. In the interim, additional investigations are being conducted to better characterize the areas of impact and aid in remedial technology selections. With EPA approval, some remedies may be implemented as Interim Measures prior to EPA issuing a Final Decision. Other activities include: additional storm sewer and outfall studies; continued inspections and maintenance of storm water structures; and groundwater monitoring.

More detailed information on the site can be viewed at the RACER website at www.racertrust.org.

For More Information

RACER: Grant Trigger • 855-RACER-411 • gtrigger@racertrust.org
EPA: Chris Black • 312-886-1451 • black.christopher@epa.gov