



The RACER Trust: Empowering America's Auto Communities

Muncie, IN

RACER Site ID 13160

Muncie Industrial Land
1200 West 8th Street
Muncie, IN

Updated May 2024

Site Description

The Muncie Industrial Land is 66.1 acres of vacant land located in the southwest end of Muncie. The site was used by various divisions of General Motors Corporation, beginning in 1904, to manufacture batteries and vehicle transmissions.

Manufacturing operations began with the construction of the former Delco Remy Battery Plant on the northern 18 acres of the site. Operations included the manufacture of lead acid batteries. The southern 44 acres of the site were purchased by GM Corp. in 1919 and used by the Muncie Products Division (MPD) to manufacture transmissions, steering gears, and valves. After several plant expansions and updates, the site grew to a 1.2-million-square-foot manufacturing building, the battery plant and several outlying buildings.

The battery plant was demolished in 1978-79. Beginning in 1990, the site was operated as New Venture Gear, Inc. through a joint venture between GM Corp. and Acustar New Process Gear, Inc. Ownership reverted to GM Corp. in 2003 and operations began as Manual Transmissions of Muncie (MTM) in 2004. Manufacturing ceased in 2006 and demolition was completed in 2009. The concrete building slabs remain at the site.

Cleanup activities are performed by the RACER Trust in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside \$5.7 million for cleanup work.

Environmental History

Environmental investigation began in the 1980s. Numerous spills of petroleum products and releases, including one of sulfuric acid, were documented. In 2007, approximately 15 "areas of interest" were identified for additional investigation.

Continued

Primary constituents of concern for soil are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), benzo(a)pyrene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals (lead and arsenic). VOCs are the primary constituents of concern for groundwater.

The following remedial activities have been completed at the site:

- Removal of 15 underground storage tanks (1989, 1990)
- Excavation and disposal of surface soils and installation of a bioremediation system at an above-ground storage tank location (1993)
- Removal and disposal or capping of several areas of PCB impacted concrete. Capping of remaining PCB impacted concrete is budgeted for 2015.
- Subsurface investigations associated with former underground storage tanks (1995, 2004, 2005)
- In-place closure of one underground storage tank and decommissioning of the in-situ bioremediation system (1996)
- Various soil and groundwater investigations (2007 through 2014)
- The RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report and refined human health risk assessment has been submitted to IDEM for review/comment/approval. RACER awaits IDEM response to the report.

At the request of IDEM, off-site soil samples were collected from various locations near and downwind from the site to determine if site operations may have impacted properties to the north and east. At this time, RACER and IDEM are evaluating the data generated to date to determine if additional sampling within residential neighborhoods to the north and east is needed as part of RACER's remedial work at the site.

Based on historical investigations and cleanup work, a restrictive covenant to limit future use to non-residential and to prohibit on-site groundwater use may be required.

Next Steps

Once the RFI Report is approved, RACER will continue to work with IDEM to develop a cleanup plan that is protective of human health and the environment and consistent with IDEM cleanup standards.

Information on the site and past environmental tests can be viewed at the RACER website at www.racertrust.org.

For more information on vapor intrusion, please visit the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's website: <https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanups/2357.htm>

IDEM Virtual File Cabinet: <https://www.in.gov/idem/legal/2363.htm>

For More Information

RACER: Robert Hare • 855-RACER-411 • rhare@racertrust.org
IDEM: Doug Griffin • 371-233-2710 • DGriffin@IDEM.IN.gov