



The RACER Trust: Empowering America's Auto Communities



Kokomo, IN

RACER Site 12880

Kokomo Industrial Land
1723 North Washington Street
Kokomo, IN 46901

Site Description

The site of the former GM Delco Plant 5 is located on 10.6 acres of land in a mixed commercial/residential area on the north end of Kokomo.

The site was developed for Apperson Brothers Automobile Co., which manufactured Haynes Automobiles from 1915 to 1926. Wolfe Manufacturing made radio cabinets at the site from 1926 to the late 1930s. Reliance Manufacturing made women's clothing and parachutes during World War II, occupying the site from the late 1930s to 1953. GM Delco manufactured circuit board assemblies from 1953 to 1991.



Demolition of the plant, including removal of the floor slab, was completed in 1993. The site is now a vacant grass field, with the exception of a 4.31-acre parking lot and dead-end road in the northern portion of the site and a small concrete pad in the southern portion of the grass field.

The site is being managed under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program. Cleanup activities are performed by the RACER Trust, with the approval and oversight of EPA Region 5. The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside \$7.3 million for cleanup work.

Continued



Environmental History

GM Corp. and the EPA signed a performance-based Corrective Action Agreement that called for GM Corp. to take the lead role in performing a RCRA Corrective Action at the site. The investigation was completed in three phases.

During the first phase of field activities, soil and groundwater on the site were investigated to determine whether they had been affected by past operations. These investigation activities involved drilling and sampling monitoring wells, collecting soil samples, and evaluating the new and historical soil and groundwater data. These activities were conducted at four Areas of Interest that were identified by a review of site records and previous investigations, and on nearby properties to the south and east of the site.

The second phase of field activities focused on a volatile organic compound called trichloroethylene (“TCE”) and other constituents in soil and groundwater at the site. TCE is a solvent that was commonly used in industry for degreasing electronic components and also found in common household items.

The third phase of field activities further delineated TCE and other constituents in the site’s soil and groundwater, and further characterized off-site groundwater containing TCE.

Next Steps

RACER Trust is working with EPA Region 5 to implement a plan for the remediation of TCE impacts to groundwater and soil. The timeline and cost of cleanup are being developed in consultation with EPA.

Remediation is expected to be complete within three years of EPA Region 5 selecting the final remedy for the property. Monitoring activities may continue for years to come. Deed restrictions related to any necessary corrective measures are likely.

RACER Trust will continue to work with EPA Region 5 to develop a cleanup plan that is protective of human health and the environment. It is anticipated that long-term groundwater monitoring will be a component in the final cleanup plans.

*Information on the site and past environmental tests can be viewed at the RACER website at www.racertrust.org.
An information repository has been established where final project-related documents are available for public review:
Kokomo Public Library • 220 North Union Street • Kokomo, IN 46901 • (765) 457-3242*

For More Information

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