



The RACER Trust: Empowering America's Auto Communities



Romulus, MI

RACER Site 10020

Romulus Industrial Land
37350 Ecorse Road
Romulus, MI 48174

Site Description

This 69.48-acre vacant property, formerly referred to as the General Motors Engineering Center, is located just east of Interstate 275, adjacent to the General Motors Romulus Casting, Engine, Transmission Facility (GM CET Facility) — currently owned and operated by General Motors LLC at 36880 Ecorse Road). The Engineering Center was once part of the GM CET Facility, but was segregated as part of the General Motors bankruptcy proceedings in 2010.

This property is zoned M2, General as industrial property, and includes a perimeter road, a paved parking lot, and the concrete floor and foundation slab from the former 196,000-square-foot Engineering Center building. The former Romulus Engineering Center was built in 1981, and was demolished in 2010. This facility was primarily comprised of dynamometer cells for engine testing, maintenance shops, and offices. Additionally, an aboveground storage tank (AST) farm, containing four, 20,000-gallon diesel fuel storage tanks, was present in the northeast corner of the parcel.



Environmental cleanup activities are being conducted by the RACER Trust, with the approval and oversight of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside approximately \$276,000 for cleanup work at this property.

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Environmental History

Remediation activities for this property are subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994 (NREPA). As such, in 2012 RACER Trust initiated a RCRA Facility Investigation of the property, including the identification and investigation of six Areas of Interest. Notably among these is the former diesel fuel AST farm noted above.

On April 27, 2007, approximately 2,100 gallons of diesel fuel were released from one of the distribution lines amid the above-ground storage tanks, and entered a 14,000-square-foot bermed area. The spill was reported to the MDEQ, and a cleanup was initiated immediately. Cleanup activities included the recovery of the spilled fuel and the removal of impacted brush and other material from the bermed area. Approximately 95 percent of the spill was recovered.

Following the 2007 cleanup work, a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was performed and included the collection of 13 shallow soil samples and the installation of four deeper borings. Results indicated that surface soils in the bermed area contained low levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons diesel range organics (TPHd). Levels of the contaminant decreased considerably with depths greater than one foot below the ground surface. Low levels of TPHd also were detected in locations outside the bermed area, although these levels did not exceed regulatory standards. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) were detected in shallow soil samples collected within and outside the bermed area, but concentrations were considerably less than the most stringent Michigan cleanup criteria.

In 2012 and 2013 as part of the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), eight soil borings and seven temporary monitoring wells were installed in the former AST farm area to collect soil and groundwater samples to follow up the prior investigative efforts performed in this area. All of the samples were analyzed for Michigan 10 metals (Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, Silver, and Zinc) and Target Compound List volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphenyls (soil only).

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Only arsenic was detected in soil above Michigan screening criteria, but the detected concentration did not exceed the arsenic State default background concentration.

As for the other five Areas of Interest investigated as part of the RFI, nine soil borings and five temporary monitoring wells were collectively installed in these areas to collect soil and groundwater samples to assess the potential for past releases of hazardous constituents. All of the samples were analyzed consistent with the parameters identified above.

The results of the RFI indicate limited impact to soil and groundwater at the site as a result of releases of hazardous waste, hazardous constituents, and hazardous substances at the site. The soil and groundwater data collected were screened against all non-residential cleanup criteria of Part 201 of NREPA, and only Non-residential Drinking Water Protection and Groundwater Surface Water Interface Criteria were exceeded for three inorganic constituents at select locations. Arsenic was detected in groundwater at two locations exceeding screening criteria; however, these detected concentrations are believed to be present due to natural conditions (i.e., types of soil deposits), and are not believed to be attributed to site operations because arsenic is not known to have been used at the site, nor is it likely to have been a constituent of materials used during site-related activities. Additionally, these arsenic exceedances are within the collective range of concentrations typical of well water of Wayne County (greater than 0.010 mg/L), as described in MDEQ public outreach information. The exceedances of the Groundwater Surface Water Interface Criteria are delineated in a downgradient monitoring well and do not extend to the adjacent county drain. It is believed these conditions meet regulatory requirements for protection of public health and for control of contaminated groundwater migration. Follow-up groundwater monitoring has been completed and the results verify the RFI results.

Next Steps

The MDEQ has reviewed all the available data and has requested limited additional groundwater monitoring be completed to further verify the results of the RFI and groundwater concentration trends. RACER will work with MDEQ to address any comments on future groundwater monitoring results, and work with MDEQ through the corrective measures evaluation and selection process. At this time RACER believes the final corrective measures could involve recording a deed restriction that prohibits residential use of the site and potable use of site groundwater and requires proper soil management.

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