



The RACER Trust: Empowering America's Auto Communities



Wyoming, MI

RACER Site 11980

Grand Rapids Stamping Plant
300 36th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49548

Site Description

An 88-acre site near US 131, this property, zoned industrial, was the home of the former Grand Rapids Stamping Plant. The RACER Trust sold the property in 2011 to Thunder Ventures, who subsequently transferred the site to the City of Wyoming Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (WBRA). RACER retains certain responsibilities related to subsurface contamination associated with historical operations at the site. In this case, a unique cooperative effort to facilitate redevelopment of the site has been initiated by WBRA, Thunder Ventures, The Right Place, Inc., and RACER.

The site was originally developed in 1936 by the Fisher Body Division of General Motors and was formerly operated as an automobile metal fabrication and assembly plant until 2010 when operations ceased. The site included a 2-million-square-foot main manufacturing building, in addition to several outbuildings, and a wastewater treatment plant. Operations included the use of various heavy metal-based materials, oils, and solvents. Decommissioning, demolition, and redevelopment activities were completed by MCM Management Corporation on behalf of Thunder Ventures in 2011 and 2012, including decommissioning and demolition of all site structures with the exception of the Primary Switch House and a Consumers Energy Company substation, removal of the former building slabs, and re-grading of the site.

Investigation and cleanup activities are being performed by the RACER Trust, working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside \$3,785,208 for investigation and cleanup work at this property.

Environmental History

During plant expansion and excavation activities in 1985, an oily layer consisting of mineral seal oil and/or mineral spirits, often referred to as Light Non-aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL), was observed. An environmental investigation, including installation of monitoring wells, was conducted in 1985, with ongoing monitoring of select wells on the site to evaluate the mobility and migration of LNAPL in this area. LNAPL has not been

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observed in the wells since October 2007. During demolition activities in 2012, LNAPL was observed in an excavated basement area; however, no LNAPL has been observed during subsequent monitoring events. No LNAPL has been observed in off-site monitoring wells. RACER has and will continue regular monitoring for the presence of LNAPL.

TCE — a common cleaning solvent that was historically used at manufacturing and industrial facilities across the country — was used in degreasing operations at the site from 1953 until 1979. In 1985, elevated levels of TCE were found in soil and groundwater in the area of a former TCE degreaser. Additional investigations between 1985 and 2012 evaluated the nature and extent of the impacts at the site and the adjacent properties to the north. Concentrations of TCE and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) typically associated with the natural breakdown of TCE in the environment such as, cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE), trans-1,2-DCE, and vinyl chloride, were identified in soil and groundwater above MDEQ's cleanup criteria. Between 1989 and 2005, GMC operated soil and groundwater treatment systems at the site to remediate TCE. With the approval of MDEQ, the soil vapor and groundwater treatment systems, were shutdown in May 2003 and March 2005, respectively, after it was concluded that the systems had effectively removed the majority of the TCE. Routine monitoring of all on- and off-site monitoring wells for VOCs was initiated in 1989. RACER has and will continue regular groundwater monitoring activities. in accordance with MDEQ requirements.

The area near the northwest corner of the site had been previously used for bulk unloading of petroleum products. An environmental investigation, including soil borings and the collection of soil and groundwater samples, were undertaken in this area between 2005 and 2012 to evaluate the nature and extent of impacts to soil and groundwater. Elevated levels of metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PNAs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were identified, and RACER's contractors are delineating the area of impacted soil. Groundwater samples collected from this area showed no contaminants above MDEQ's prescribed criteria in the bulk unloading area.

Results from groundwater and soil samples collected from other areas of the site have identified limited areas where the presence of certain VOCs, PNAs, PCBs, and metals are elevated. Results of the sitewide investigation have been submitted to the MDEQ. RACER has notified neighboring property owners where elevated groundwater levels may be present. These properties are already served by municipal water.

Next Steps

Work is being performed under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, Part 201 (Environmental Remediation). RACER is currently working with the MDEQ to identify and implement supplemental investigation activities at the site to further assess soil conditions in anticipation of implementation of remedial actions. Additionally, RACER is working with the MDEQ to conduct ongoing groundwater monitoring at the site and in the adjacent areas to confirm current conditions remain stable and do not pose potential risk/ exposures to human health and the environment. Once the investigations have been completed, alternatives will be developed to effectively address the contamination and eliminate potential risk or exposure to human health and the environment. Land and groundwater use restrictions will be one component of a comprehensive remedial strategy for the site.

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

For More Information

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