Site Description

Fisker Automotive, which purchased this property in June 2010, has plans to retrofit the former GM manufacturing plant in Wilmington into a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant for electric-hybrid sedans.

RACER and its contractors retain access rights to the property to complete an environmental assessment on and near the property. All of RACER’s activities are performed with the approval and oversight of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside $11.7 million these studies and future cleanup work, if needed.

Environmental History

When GM owned the property, a number of underground storage tanks were removed. In November 1990, DNREC determined that no further action was needed to address these areas. The underground tanks were replaced with seven above-ground tanks, which were constructed on concrete with secondary containment. These above-ground tanks were removed by GM in 1997.
In 2012, during routine groundwater sampling at the site, the presence of petroleum in groundwater at the eastern property boundary was detected. The discovery was reported to DNREC.

RACER now is conducting a more extensive groundwater sampling program to delineate the impacted area. All data will be submitted to DNREC and RACER will perform any clean-up measures recommended by the Agency. RACER also determined that nearby properties are served by a municipal water supply and, to the best of RACER’s knowledge, no one is using groundwater as a source of potable water.

In addition, RACER determined that the petroleum in the groundwater is not being released as a vapor into the soils above the groundwater table where it could enter off-site basements, crawl spaces or cracks in slabs of homes (a process called “vapor intrusion.”)

Next Steps

RACER will continue to work closely with DNREC to identify the area with petroleum-impacted groundwater and perform any clean-up measures DNREC recommends for the property.

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

Deleware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Controal: www.dnrec.delaware.gov.