



Maryland Department of the
Environment

FACTS ABOUT: ELITE/FREE STATE/STAR CLEANERS SITE

Site Location

Elite/Free State/Star Cleaners (EFSSC) operated on several properties in Delmar, two of them in the Maryland portion of the town. These two parcels are about one block apart and on opposite sides of S. First Street in Delmar.

The first site consists of a roughly 5000 square foot parcel located at 3 S. First Street, in Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland. The site is situated in a residential/commercial area in the center of Delmar at an elevation of roughly 55 feet above mean sea level. The site is listed by Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation as Parcel 36 on Map 11A; the property account number is listed as 000029. The center of the site is at 38.455453° north latitude and 075.577078° west longitude. The Maryland Grid coordinates for the center of the site are 229,550 north by 1,207,250 east.

The second site is a 3,250 square foot parcel located on S. First Street, that was owned sporadically from 1954 until 1988 by Elite Laundry and Cleaners, Inc. This property transferred back and forth from Elite to various private owners during that period. The site is listed by Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation as Parcel 148 on Map 11A; the property account number is listed as 003761. The center of the site is at 38.4547215° north latitude and 075.5763879° west longitude. The Maryland Grid coordinates for the center of the site are 229,250 north by 1,207,750 east.

The site is located in a well head protection area. There are 48 domestic wells, 1 municipal well and 8 industrial wells within a one-mile radius of the site. The closest municipal well is one-third of a mile from the site.

The site is in a residential neighborhood bordering the “downtown” business area of the Town of Delmar. The surrounding properties are a mix of residential and commercial properties.

Site History

The property was developed in the early 1900s. Property records indicate that the building on parcel 36 was constructed in 1920. Historical information suggests that an automobile dealer operated on the site in the early 1920s and that the building was later used as a furniture store. Property records document the fact that from July 1959 until November 1967 Star Laundry leased the property from Edgar Jerman. During that period a laundry and dry cleaner is thought to have operated on the site. At the present time, the



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site is a vacant commercial building owned by Nathan J. Hine & David Harchar.

The second parcel, parcel 148, was owned by Elite Laundry and Cleaners, Inc. from 1954 until 1988. This parcel was last transferred in 1988 and is currently owned by Marvin P. and Claudette Gibbs. From 1945 til 1954 the property was owned by Daisy B. Bolen. Daisy B. Bolen acquired the property from Charles A. Elliott who had acquired the property in September 1930 from Jay Williams and Sallie R. Gundy. The Gundy family owned the property from September 1897 until September 1930. The property is now an open lot with the remains of the concrete building slab visible on the surface.

Environmental Investigations

EFSSC was flagged as a Priority Site in the June 2008, MDE Dry Cleaners Initiative Report. The site is a Level I Priority Dry Cleaner Initiative site (operated greater than 15 years in a designated wellhead protection area) as documented in the Initiative Report. EFSSC is not listed in the current Air and Radiation Management Administration Database. EFSSC is not listed as an air facility in the Federal Registry.

On May 31, 2012, MDE personnel conducted sampling according to procedures outlined in EPA's CLP Routine Analytical Services. The results of the Tier 1 Vapor Intrusion Site Inspection identified volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil and groundwater adjacent to the 3 South First Street site at levels that would engender health and safety concerns.

On December 4, 2012, MDE collected several additional soil and groundwater samples in order to document the extent of the contaminant plume identified in the earlier sampling. The results from the May 2012 study were duplicated in the December 2012 study. MDE recommended that further action be considered to define and mitigate the contamination at this site.

On December 12, 2012, three indoor air samples were collected from the 28 State Street building and analyzed for VOCs using EPA Method TO-15. The results of the air sampling were compared to non-residential regional screening levels based on the current use of the 28 State Street structure. Indoor air issues were not identified.

Current Status

The building on Parcel 36 that once housed the EFSSC is currently being used for storage. The Parcel 148 building no longer exists; portions of a foundation are all that is visible. MDE continues to investigate the contaminant plume and the State of Delaware has begun to assess the situation north of the State line.



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