Baltimore City	
1923-1990s	Parker Metal manufactured decorative metal signs at the property.
4/1997	VCP application received for the property.
6/1997	At the Department's request, soil and groundwater samples were collected to complete the application package.
8/1997	A No Further Requirements Determination issued for the property.

PARKER METAL DECORATING COMPANY
1301 South Howard Street
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Description

The 0.7-acre Parker Metal Decorating Company ("the site") property is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Ostend Street and an elevated section of Interstate 395, in an industrial-commercial section of Baltimore. It is bounded by Ostend Street to the north, Interstate 395 and Sharp Street to the east, Stockholm Street to the south, and Howard Street to the west. Water and sewer service is provided to the site by the City of Baltimore. The current owner of the site is 1301 Howard, L.L.C.

The site is comprised of a vacant, three-story, brick building surrounded by a narrow, partially paved strip of land. From 1923 to the early 1990s, this building housed Parker Metal, a decorative-sign manufacturer. During Parker Metal's occupancy, the building's ground floor contained production lines for the application and drying of coatings, inks, and varnishes. The second floor contained offices, a photographic developing laboratory, and storage areas for inks and metal coatings. The third floor contained a machine shop and a storage area for chemicals and equipment.

Historical research indicates the site has been used for a variety of commercial activities since the early 1900s. The commercial activities included burlap-bag manufacturing, baking, metal smelting and refining, and metal decorating.

Environmental Concerns

Subsurface contamination was identified at the site by a soil-vapor survey that was performed in May 1994 by Penniman & Browne, Inc. During the survey, soil-vapor samples were collected from drum-storage areas located inside and outside of the building and three off-site (background) locations. Laboratory analysis revealed very low levels of xylene in all of the samples, and very low levels of tetrachloroethene in two samples collected from the site's outdoor drum-storage area. Xylene and tetrachloroethene are believed to have been present in the chemicals Parker Metals used and stored at the site.

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Status

The current site owner plans to redevelop the property into an office complex. On April 4, 1997, the owner submitted one of the first applications for participation in the VCP. The Department reviewed the application and requested the collection of soil and groundwater samples from the site to determine if the site's historical use had produced contamination that could pose a threat to human health and the environment.

On June 20, 1997, subsurface soil samples and shallow groundwater samples were collected from around and beneath the building. Analysis of the soil samples revealed traces of toluene, xylene, benzene, PCE, and metals in the soil beneath the former outdoor drum-storage area. Similarly, analysis of the shallow groundwater samples revealed traces of toluene, xylene, and metals.

Using the data from the June 1997 sampling event, the Department evaluated the potential health and environmental risks posed by the identified contaminants. Results of this evaluation indicated that the site contaminants do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. The Department issued a "No Further Requirements" letter for the site on August 12, 1997.

Site Contact

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