

## Former Rally's Restaurant and Briarcliff Station June 24, 1998

### Introduction

The DeKalb County Health Department requested that the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) evaluate the extent of contamination and the potential for resulting health effects associated with the Former Rally's Restaurant and Briarcliff Station, two state-listed hazardous waste sites. The following summary addresses the extent of cleanup at these sites, past contaminant levels, present contaminant levels, and the potential or actual completed exposure pathways.

### Site Description and History

The Former Rally's Restaurant and Briarcliff Station sites are located adjacent to each other within an approximately 30 acre parcel of land occupied predominately by retail stores, parking areas, and traffic lanes. Ninety to ninety-five percent of this parcel is covered by asphalt and buildings, with the balance consisting of landscaped grounds. The sites are bordered by Briarcliff Road to the north, North Druid Hills Road to the south, Mount Miriah Road to the west.

The Briarcliff Station Shopping Center leasehold is about 3 to 4 acres and lies immediately north of the former Rally's Restaurant leasehold. The former Rally's Restaurant leasehold parcel is about one-half acre and was also the location of a former automotive service business. The restaurant building was removed prior to all field work associated with these sites. The land is currently vacant.

Contaminants of concern include tetrachloroethene, apparently originating from spills or improper disposal from the dry cleaning establishment, in soil and groundwater and various organics and lead in groundwater from the former automotive service business. Because of the apparent southerly groundwater flow, contaminants in the groundwater migrated beyond the former Rally's site for less than one-quarter mile. The property to the south of the site is owned by the DeKalb County School Board and landscaped with approximately 20-year-old southern pines on a relatively steep southern slope. Beyond the tree line the property is used for tennis courts, a football stadium, and a high school.

In addition to these contaminants, two unlabeled drums with unknown contents are stored on the property between the dry cleaner and the former Rally's parcel. No clean-up has been recorded at these sites.

The sites were brought to the attention of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) in June 1994 when a notification of the release of tetrachloroethene to groundwater was submitted based on the results of a Preliminary Site Assessment conducted for the Former Rally's Restaurant site.

### Environmental Sampling

#### *Briarcliff Station*

Work was initiated at the Briarcliff Station site by identifying areas within the dry cleaner tenant space where there was evidence of apparent spillage. Eleven soil samples were collected, and several groundwater samples were collected and analyzed from each of five groundwater monitoring wells.

#### *Former Rally's Restaurant*

Samples were collected only from groundwater. Two rounds of groundwater samples were collected from seven existing monitoring wells and one new monitoring well to determine the levels of contamination existing across the site. These samples were analyzed for tetrachloroethene, acetone, volatile organic compounds, total petroleum hydrocarbons, solvents, and lead.

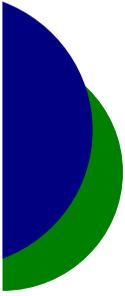
#### *School Board Property*

Since aquifer tests indicate that groundwater moves in a southerly direction, permission was secured to install four monitoring wells on School Board property in order to gather sampling data.

### Results

#### *Briarcliff Station*

A soil volatile organic vapor survey identified an area of significantly elevated volatile organic vapors, which is indicative of a release of dry cleaning solvent to the ground. The location of elevated organic vapors provides strong evidence that dry cleaning solvent has been discharged into the water valve boxes located outside of the dry cleaner. Analyses of the eleven soil samples collected indicated the presence of significantly elevated



levels of tetrachloroethene in two samples from the area with elevated volatile organic vapors. Analyses of groundwater samples from the five groundwater monitoring wells showed elevated levels of tetrachloroethene in one well, which was nearest the area with elevated volatile organic vapors.

#### *Former Rally's Restaurant*

Analyses of groundwater samples indicated the presence of lead in two samples, tetrachloroethene in five samples, and petroleum and/or solvent contamination in each sample.

#### *School Board Property*

No well samples indicated the presence of tetrachloroethene. Two wells indicated the presence of lead, and two of the four monitoring well samples analyzed indicated the presence of petroleum and solvent contamination, with the level of contamination being significantly lower in the downgradient well. Because of the low level of contamination found in the downgradient well, no additional downgradient monitoring wells were necessary to adequately estimate the horizontal extent of the contamination plume.

#### **Conclusions**

After review of the current information available for these sites, GDHR has concluded that the Former Rally's Restaurant and Briarcliff Station sites pose **no apparent public health hazard**. Specifically:

- Tetrachloroethene appears to have been released into the water valve boxes located on the outside wall of the dry cleaner. Vapor, soil, and groundwater samples indicate the presence of elevated levels of tetrachloroethene directly surrounding and under these valve boxes only.

- Although soil is contaminated in a localized area near the dry cleaner valve boxes, exposure to contaminated soil is most likely sporadic and of short duration, and people are not likely to come into contact with the contamination at a level that would be expected to cause adverse health effects.
- No public or private drinking water wells are within 3 miles of these sites; therefore, there is no opportunity for human exposure to contaminated groundwater.

#### **Recommendations**

- Conduct further evaluation of this site pursuant to the conditions of the Compliance Status Report in an effort to assess the nature and extent of contamination in soil and groundwater as planned.
- Provide health education materials to the owners/operators of the dry cleaning facility. GDPH will provide the materials.
- Remove the unlabeled drums.