

DeKalb Pest Control September 29, 2003

Introduction

Beginning in 1998, the DeKalb County Health Department requested that the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) evaluate the extent of past and present contamination and the potential for resulting health effects associated with DeKalb Pest Control Services, a state-listed hazardous waste site.

Site Description and History

DeKalb Pest Control Services, Incorporated is located on the property of a single-family private home in Avondale Estates. The area is approximately 50% residential and 50% commercial/industrial.

The site was the operating facility for a commercial pesticide applicator from 1977 until January 1991 when a routine inspection by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) led to the discovery and reporting to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) of the improper disposal of waste pesticide containers and rinsate from cleaning pesticide applicators in the wooded area behind the house. Laboratory analysis of soil samples found chlordane to be the only constituent above residential regulatory standards. Approximately 50 cubic yards (70 tons) of contaminated soil was excavated and incinerated. Following remediation, analytical results indicated that all chlordane levels were below regulatory levels.

In January 1998, the DeKalb County Board of Health asked GDPH to investigate public health issues associated with DeKalb Pest Control. GDPH published a health consultation in June 1998 that evaluated the site history, contamination found in on-site soil, the potential health effects from exposure to contaminated soil and remediation activities. GDPH recommended that groundwater monitoring be conducted to further protect public health.

In May 2002, an Interim Site Assessment Report was prepared by a private consultant for the first phase of the groundwater contamination investigation. The following addresses the findings of the groundwater sampling to determine if health hazards exist from exposure to contaminated groundwater.

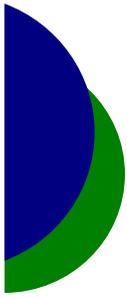
Environmental Sampling

At the time of the initial health consultation, no groundwater samples had been collected. In order to obtain groundwater samples and depth to water information, temporary groundwater monitor wells were installed on-site. There are no known off-site individual water wells. All residents in the area have been connected to the municipal water supply for several decades. Because there are no public or individual water wells within three miles of the site, there is no exposure pathway to contaminated groundwater through ingestion. Inhalation of contaminated groundwater vapor could occur if contaminated groundwater is near the ground surface underneath homes affected by the site.

Groundwater samples were taken from three temporary borings on April 17 and 18, 2002, to identify the concentration of regulated substances in groundwater in the vicinity of previously excavated soils, establish groundwater depth and flow direction, and determine the need for permanent groundwater monitor wells. The water samples collected were analyzed for the eight Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) metals: arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, selenium, and silver, using EPA method 6010b, and mercury, using EPA method 7440. The water samples were also analyzed for nineteen pesticides using EPA method 8081A, which includes those found in soil at the site and other common pesticides used during the time of company operations.

Results

None of the samples from the temporary monitor wells at the DeKalb Pest Control Services, Inc., site contained detectable amounts of metals or pesticides. Most of the EPA sampling method detection levels for the metals and pesticides sampled for are below the levels of health concern developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, except for one metal (arsenic) and three pesticides (heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, and toxaphene). Because the detection levels are above the levels of health concern, we cannot assume that the actual levels of contaminants in groundwater are above the levels of health concern. We do not know the actual amounts, if any, of these contaminants in groundwater,



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but we do know they are below the EPA sampling method detection levels.

There is no known contaminant migration from soil to groundwater at this site, as the source of contamination was removed. In addition, there is no indication that groundwater has been affected by past contamination of soil at this site because no metals or pesticides used by the company have been detected using established sampling methods. Because there is no evidence of groundwater contamination, and contaminated soil has been removed, it is unlikely that persons have been affected by contaminated soil or groundwater vapor.

Conclusions

Based on information currently available, GDPH concludes that the DeKalb Pest Control Services, Inc. site poses **no public health hazard**. People have never and will never come into contact with harmful amounts of site-related substances in groundwater.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations at this time.