

ARATEX SERVICES, INC. (DES MOINES)
(Des Moines, Iowa)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The site is situated in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 25, T79N, R 24W in Polk County, Iowa. The 3.15 acre-site is located at 2500 Delaware Avenue, Des Moines. The facility is owned by Aramark Uniform Services, Inc. (formerly Aratex Services, Inc.). The site was entered on the Registry in September 1991.

SITE CLASSIFICATION

The site has been classified to “d” Site Properly Closed, Requires Continued Management.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HAZARDOUS WASTE OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

Aratex Services is an industrial laundry facility. Dry cleaning operations were conducted at the facility from 1972 to 1986. Dry cleaning solvent was stored in 12 aboveground tanks inside the facility. The total capacity of the tanks was approximately 9,000 gallons. Dry cleaning operations were discontinued at the end of 1986 and all dry cleaning equipment removed from the site in 1987. In 1988 solvent vapors suspected to be perchloroethylene (PCE) were noted, in response a Phase I investigation was conducted in February 1988. Analysis of soil samples confirmed the presence of PCE and other contaminants at the site. A Phase II investigation followed in June 1988 with the installation of the first six of an eventual 24 monitoring wells.

A remedial investigation conducted in 1990 showed the groundwater is contaminated with PCE and its degradation products. By compound the high contaminant levels were **PCE (9,140 ug/L), trichloroethylene (8,600 ug/L), 1,2-dichloroethylene (21,300 ug/L), and vinyl chloride (1,660 ug/L).** Groundwater monitoring for the second half of 1998 showed the average concentrations for PCE, TCE, 1,2-DCE and VC were **32,000, 740, 8,400 and 1,700 ug/L respectively.** An aquifer located approximately 40 feet beneath the surface at the site consists of fine to coarse-grained sand with high hydraulic conductivity and yields of 10 to 100 gallons per minute. **Analytical data indicated, however, the contaminant plume was still within the confining layer above the aquifer.**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- **The primary public health and environmental concern is exposure to chlorinated hydrocarbons in drinking water.**

A remedial action plan for the site was approved by IDNR in April 1991. The focus of remediation focused on removing the contaminants from the confining layer above the aquifer. Because of the low conductivity of the confining layer, a vacuum-enhanced groundwater extraction system was recommended. The vacuum-enhanced groundwater extraction system was installed and became operational in June 1992. Until May 1994, recovered soil vapor was treated prior to discharge to the atmosphere. During this period approximately 55 gallons of PCE was recovered and recycled.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT, MONITORING OR REMEDIAL ACTION

The state is the lead agency for the site. In March 1999, Aramark met with the department and expressed interest in participating in the Land Recycling Program (LRP), and the facility was subsequently accepted in to the LRP. **An October 2001, meeting with the IDNR was held to update the progress of LRP activities. No active remediation planned, although additional monitoring was recommended by the IDNR to determine point of compliance.**

On June 10-11, 2002, nested wells were installed into an aquitard at 16 feet below ground surface and at 30 feet into a sand aquifer at a distance of 75 to 100 feet south of the Aratex (Aramark) property boundary. No VOCs were detected in the nested wells, indicating that off-site migration had not occurred. Monitoring will continue.

In October 2003, at the request of Aramark, the IDNR prepared a document containing suggestions for site closure. These suggestions included, but not limited to the following:

- An agreement with the City of Des Moines not to use the groundwater at the site as water source.
- An environmental protection easement prohibiting use of on-site groundwater for drinking water.
- Demonstration of compliance with site-specific standard as specified in subrule 567 IAC 137. 10(6) which requires 95 per cent upper confidence limit of the arithmetic mean for samples from the medium of concern (groundwater in this case).
- 2005 Annual monitoring report was recently submitted to the department.

In October 2006 the facility signed an environmental covenant that prevents prohibits the installation of a drinking water well on the site. Public notification was filed in the Des Moines Register in January 2007. The notice was to provide opportunity for members of the public to review department files, make written comments and request a public hearing. However, there was no comment from the public. A final report was received by the department in June 2007. This report was revised and another report sent to the department in August 2007. The department is awaiting a certification letter from the Environmental Division of Public Works Department, Polk County that the county would not likely permit a well within the property.