

Zero Road Facility 7627 Zero Road Berger, Mo.

January 2019

Facility Description

The Zero Road Facility is located at 7627 Zero Road in Berger. The site encompasses 33 acres and includes three buildings, a water-production well house, a water supply tower, domestic waste lagoons and a fenced parking lot. The main warehouse building is approximately 110,000 square feet and is elevated 4 feet above the surrounding area. A chain-link fence surrounds the site on the west, north and east sides of the property. The on-site groundwater production well, which is currently inactive, is 1,200 feet deep with the upper 465 feet cased. The facility is currently owned by W&B of Franklin County.

Waste Description

At present, Missouri Green Materials LLC is storing a large quantity of spent sandblasting materials inside the warehouse. These waste materials are considered to be hazardous because they contain amounts of certain metals, including cadmium, that exceed regulatory limits established by the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The spent sandblasting materials are stored in containers, inside the elevated warehouse.

Facility History

First opened in 1969, at various times the facility manufactured metal products and rubber seals. The facility was registered as a hazardous waste generator from 1987 to 1999. In 2000, manufacturing operations ceased, after which a portion of the facility reportedly has operated as a storage warehouse, and the remainder has been vacant.

In 2007, the Franklin County Commission submitted environmental site assessments to the department as an initial step toward enrolling the site in the department's Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program. Ultimately, the site was not enrolled in the program.

On Nov. 29, 2013, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality notified the Department that US Technology Corporation had shipped hazardous-waste sandblasting materials to Missouri Green Materials at the Zero Road facility. The Department confirmed that Missouri Green Materials had not obtained the proper permits to accept or store hazardous waste in Missouri.

Agency Actions Taken

Beginning Dec. 6, 2013, the Department inspected the facility and spoke with neighbors. The Department identified approximately 13 million pounds of spent sandblasting materials in the warehouse. As a result, the Department issued a notice of violation for 12 hazardous waste violations.

The Department continued to investigate the facility and coordinate with EPA and environmental agencies in other states. US Technology Corporation's documents showed material arrived at the facility from Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Ohio, and Utah. As a result of its investigation, in 2014

the Department cited Missouri Green Materials for 50 additional violations and US Technology Corporation for 19 additional violations. Because of the multi-state issues involved with this facility, the Department referred this matter to EPA Region VII. EPA is now the lead enforcement agency.

In 2016, EPA Region VII initiated an enforcement action against US Technology Corporation for placing the materials at the facility and directed the company to properly treat and sample the materials and dispose of them at an appropriate off-site facility. EPA's Consent Agreement and Final Order with US Technology Corporation is available online here.

EPA Region VII has remained in communication with the responsible parties' attorneys. Although occasionally the responsible parties have provided minimal assistance to clean up and secure the building, in general they have failed to comply with the terms of the order.

The Department of Justice <u>reached plea agreements</u> for criminal charges with the responsible parties before the scheduled trial date of June 18. As part of those agreements, EPA will receive funds to complete the cleanup of the material. EPA has begun the planning process to complete this work.

For More Information

For additional information regarding the site, please contact Ms. Nicole Eby, Hazardous Waste Program, Enforcement Unit, at 573-751-2347 or nicole.eby@dnr.mo.gov.

Aerial Map

