

Fact Sheet
Airdock - Haley's Ditch Voluntary Site Monitoring
January 2007

Background

The Airdock was built by Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation in 1929 as a facility for constructing rigid airships. It was acquired by Lockheed Martin Corporation in 1997, upon the merger of Loral Corporation into Lockheed Martin. Loral had purchased assets of Goodyear Aerospace Corporation – including the Airdock – in 1987. Ownership of the Airdock transferred to Summit County Development Authority in 2006, with Lockheed Martin as the sole user of the structure. Lockheed Martin employs approximately 500 people in Akron and is engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems, products and services.

The Airdock and other buildings that comprise Lockheed Martin's Akron, Ohio, facility are located at 1210 Massillon Road and accessed from U.S. Route 224. The Airdock was constructed using material coated with a fire retardant substance, which is now known to have contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); specifically, a compound known as Aroclor 1268. PCBs are chemical compounds that were used historically in manufacturing many consumer and industrial products because of their resistance to fire and their insulating capacity. PCBs are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment because of their widespread use.

Haley's Ditch begins several hundred feet north of the Airdock. Between the Airdock and Haley's Ditch are Akron Municipal Airport and Triplett Boulevard. Haley's Ditch extends through properties owned by, in order, Lockheed Martin, the City of Akron, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (Goodyear), and then properties owned by various individuals and entities until it reaches the Little Cuyahoga River. Lockheed Martin has been voluntarily conducting environmental sampling of Haley's Ditch to address environmental issues that have arisen in association with maintaining national defense operations at the Airdock.

Field Work and Sampling Results

Due to over 75 years of weathering, some of the Airdock's siding material eroded and fell onto the ground. Lockheed Martin has replaced or covered most of the Airdock's siding, removed siding debris from the ground surrounding the Airdock, and cleaned the Airdock's rain gutters and the storm runoff catch basins in order to control the potential discharge of PCBs from the site.

PCBs have been detected in sediment and soils in a fence-enclosed property owned by Lockheed Martin at the south end (beginning) of Haley's Ditch and in a nearby, downstream, fenced property owned by Goodyear. Lockheed Martin is working with the United States Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Akron to address this issue. Lockheed Martin has conducted sampling at Haley's Ditch to determine if PCBs are present and if any clean-up is necessary. Samples collected within Haley's Ditch downstream (north) of Seiberling Street did not show significant traces of PCBs, so no further sampling is planned north of that point. However, PCBs have been detected in and around Haley's Ditch north of the Goodyear property and south of Archwood Avenue. Some of the samples contained PCBs at concentrations above EPA's default standard for unrestricted use.

Next Steps

Because PCBs detected in recent sampling within the area of Haley's Ditch south of Archwood Avenue and west of Sieberling Street show results similar to the fenced areas upstream, a temporary fence will be installed that extends restricted access to this area. Because drinking water is supplied by the City of Akron, exposure to PCBs from potable drinking water is not a concern. Lockheed Martin will be working with the property owners in this area to install the fence, and with U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA to develop and implement an appropriate plan to address the PCBs.

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