

Lockheed Martin Information Sheet North Plainfield, NJ

Summer 2018

SITE HISTORY

In 1953, Stavid Engineering built an 80-acre industrial site that sits in the boroughs of Watchung and North Plainfield, New Jersey. Lockheed Corporation, a predecessor to Lockheed Martin Corporation (Lockheed Martin), acquired the engineering company six years later. From 1959 to 1989, Lockheed Electronics Company manufactured, tested and assembled electronic components at the site. Lockheed Corporation closed the operation in 1989, and eventually sold the property, which is located on Route 22. In 1999, the site was redeveloped into a shopping center, the Watchung Square Mall.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND SOIL CLEANUP

Lockheed Corporation, which became Lockheed Martin in 1995 after the merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta Corporation, assumed responsibility for the environmental cleanup. After closing the plant in 1989, the Corporation conducted an initial environmental investigation under the oversight of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The investigation identified trichloroethene (TCE), a cleaning solvent that had been used to clean electronic parts, and fuel oil in site soil.

In the early 1990s, the contaminated soil was excavated and disposed of in a licensed off-site landfill. In some areas of the site, TCE was extracted using a vapor-recovery system to remove contamination from the soil. After the soil cleanup was completed in July 1998, Lockheed Martin received final approval from the NJDEP, which permitted unrestricted use of the site.

GROUNDWATER CLEANUP

In August 1993, Lockheed Martin determined that groundwater at the site was contaminated with TCE.

Working closely with the NJDEP, the Corporation installed more than 40 monitoring wells to measure the extent of TCE in groundwater. Based on the findings, Lockheed Martin determined that a pump-and-treat system would best clean up the contamination. The system was installed and began operating in July 2003.

The treatment system was designed to collect the groundwater and remove the contamination in an aboveground facility, and has prevented contamination from entering Crab Brook. Groundwater impacts have decreased significantly since the system started operating, and TCE concentrations in the vicinity of the treatment system have achieved NJDEP cleanup levels for several years. As a result, the treatment system was shut down in 2011 and the treatment equipment was demolished and sent to a recycling facility in early 2015.

VAPOR INTRUSION STUDY

Lockheed Martin also investigated the possibility that contaminated vapor from the groundwater could be entering indoor air in buildings near the site. The investigation included the Walmart at Watchung Square Mall, several ground floor residences at the Avalon Watchung apartment complex, and the Regency Village Condominium property. These sites are closest to the original source of TCE in shallow groundwater. Indoor air quality has been measured annually since 2011 to determine if vapors might enter structures from the ground below.

Results indicate that TCE was not detected at concentrations above the New Jersey Vapor Intrusion Residential Indoor Air Screening Criteria in any of the buildings tested. NJDEP is not requiring any further vapor monitoring at the Walmart or Regency Condominium, or Avalon Watchung properties.

For More Information

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