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Storing Raymark Waste at Contract Plating, Inc.

This fact sheet explains EPA's decision to store Raymark wastes at Contract Plating as part of the Raymark Superfund Site cleanup.

Introduction

As part of the Superfund program, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is analyzing and cleaning up various locations in Stratford, CT associated with the Raymark Facility. EPA has recently decided to use some areas at the Contract Plating Company, Inc. property for temporary storage of Raymark Superfund wastes excavated from the Shore Road Area. This fact sheet presents some background information about Contract Plating, describes what is known about the property, and explains EPA's decision to include Contract Plating as part of the Raymark Superfund Site cleanup.

What is the Raymark Superfund Site?

The Raymark Facility on East Main Street in Stratford, Connecticut operated from 1919 to 1989. Formerly known as Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Raymark manufactured gaskets, clutches, and heavy brake friction components for the automotive industry. The Raymark Superfund site includes the Raymark Facility and other areas around the town of Stratford that have been contaminated with material from this industrial facility.

What is Contract Plating Company?

Contract Plating Company, Inc. is a metal plating facility located at 540 Longbrook Avenue in Stratford (see map next page). Contract Plating provided metal plating and finishing services to manufacturers from 1936 until 1995. The site contains two large buildings and several areas used by Contract Plating for waste handling and disposal. These include former waste lagoons and sludge drying pits which contained waste from the facility's metal plating and treating operations. Contract Plating closed one of the lagoons under EPA and CTDEP supervision. The other waste-disposal areas await further study. The site owners have limited resources and legal investigations will determine their ultimate ability to pay for a cleanup.

Why is the Contract Plating property part of the Raymark cleanup?

Raymark wastes have been found at several locations on the Contract Plating property. Therefore, Contract Plating is part of the Raymark site. Some wastes may have migrated from the neighboring Ballfield area, while others were probably deposited as fill material. The existence of Raymark wastes on Contract Plating property means that EPA will evaluate and address the property as part of the Raymark Superfund site cleanup.

EPA recently decided to clean up Raymark wastes at the Shore Road Study Area (located near the Housatonic Boat Club) and transport all waste that cannot be placed back at the Shore Road Study Area to an in-town temporary storage site until a permanent in-town disposal location is selected. This decision was formalized on September 23, 1999. (For more information on these events see Raymark Bulletin #22 *Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis: Shore Road Study Area*, and Raymark Bulletin #23 *Cleanup Alternatives at the Shore Road Study Area: A discussion of pros and cons.*)

EPA had initially considered using the Raybestos Memorial Ballfield as a temporary storage area for excavated soil from Shore Road, however, members of the public expressed concern about such use. After reviewing public comments and examining existing data on the area, EPA has determined that the Contract Plating property will be used to temporarily store excess Raymark waste from Shore Road. The waste excavated from Shore Road will be isolated from any Contract Plating waste during the temporary storage. Contract Plating will also be evaluated as a site for permanent disposal of these wastes. A decision on permanent disposal will require the completion of a more thorough investigation of the Contract Plating property.

How will this affect the cleanup of the rest of the Contract Plating property?

EPA is gathering information about all contamination at the Contract Plating property. Some wastes at the site came from Raymark. Some of the contamination is the result of industrial processes and disposal practices used by the Contract Plating Company over the years of its operation. Contract Plating wastes include various metal sludges from electroplating processes and organic solvents used for the cleaning and degreasing of metal parts. Raymark wastes also contain organic solvents as well as metal constituents and asbestos. The groundwater beneath Contract Plating, the Ballfield, and the Raymark Facility all contains elevated levels of organic solvents. Therefore, EPA has decided that the Contract Plating property is an appropriate location for the temporary storage of excess Raymark wastes excavated from the Shore Road Study Area.

The use of Contract Plating property for storage of Raymark waste will not interfere with the future cleanup actions for Contract Plating. EPA will keep the public fully informed of any cleanup process at the Contract Plating property as it gets underway.

Where can I get more information about Superfund and the Raymark Superfund Site?

More detailed information about Superfund, the Raymark Superfund Site, and the Shore Road Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis is available in the reference section of the Stratford Public Library, 2203 Main Street in Stratford. This information repository contains past fact sheets about Raymark as well as technical documents explaining EPA's site investigations and cleanups to date.

Contact these individuals for additional information

Here are the numbers of people at EPA, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Town of Stratford who are responsible for overseeing the Raymark Superfund Site.

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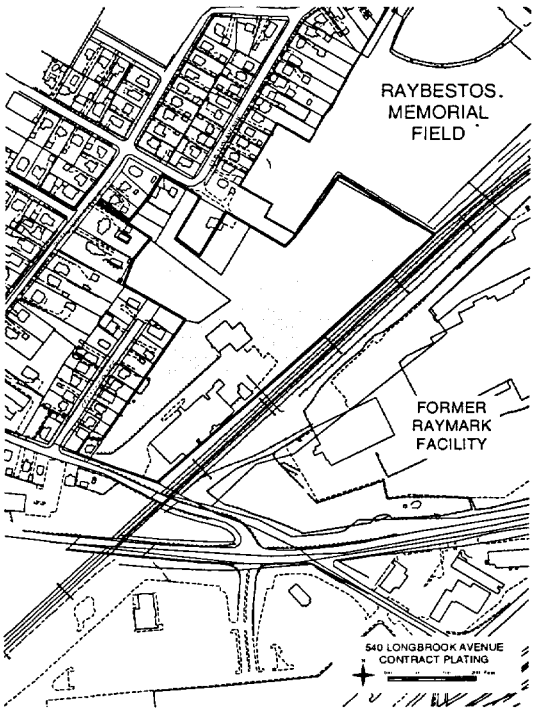

Figure 1. – Contract Plating, Inc. property.