



Maryland Department of the  
Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: AVENUE CLEANERS

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### Site Location

The Avenue Cleaners site is located at 46 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue in Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland 21157. The 0.13-acre, relatively flat, rectangular property is identified on Carroll County Tax Map 104 parcel 1424. There are two buildings on site; one building is an approximately 1,500 square foot two story building (commercial first floor and residential on the second floor) and the second is an approximately 2,500 square foot building used for laundry and dry cleaning. The site is situated in a primarily residential area of north central Westminster.

### Site History

The Avenue Cleaners facility was identified in the June 2008, *MDE Dry Cleaners Initiative Report* as a Level I Priority Dry Cleaner Initiative site. Level I priority sites are defined as those operating for more than 15 years in a designated wellhead protection area. Dry cleaning operations at the Avenue Cleaners facility began sometime prior to 1970 and continue today.

The site operates under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) handler identification number MDD049928047 as a small quantity generator of tetrachloroethene (PCE) at <140 gallons per year. The site also operates under MDE's Air and Radiation Management Administration's (ARMA) Air Quality Compliance Program under permit #013-0236. The site is listed in the EPA Air Facility System under identification number 2401300236.

ARMA files indicate that in March 2002, the Avenue Cleaners was issued a Notice of Violation for failure to obtain a permit to construct prior to installing or operating a PCE dry cleaning machine and not keeping records for the condenser temperature and leak checks. In November 2002, the site was issued a Notice of Assessed Civil Penalty No. ACP-02-022A for \$400 for the March 2002 violations. Inspections in October 2006 and October 2008 were in compliance. An ARMA inspection on April 7, 2011 resulted in a Notice of Violation for failure to maintain records (weekly leak checks and monthly PCE detector checks). Follow up inspections in 2011 identified PCE use of up to 150 gallons per year. The latest inspection on November 8, 2013 found the facility in compliance.



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## **Environmental Investigations**

On March 13, 1997, MDE's Oil Control Program oversaw the removal of a 500 gallon heating oil tank (case No. 97-1357-CL). There was no release observed and therefore no sampling was conducted. No other known remedial actions have occurred at this site.

## **Current Status**

MDE sampling for a Site Inspection in March 2014 identified a release of PCE of up to 1,900,000 µg/Kg in the subsurface soil and up to 49,000 µg/L in the groundwater. In August and November 2015, MDE conducted vapor intrusion risk assessments at three off-site residential properties, located behind the dry cleaners. To date, two residences have been identified with concentrations of PCE in indoor air and sub-slab soil vapor gas, above regulatory standards. The Department has required the owner of the cleaners to delineate and remediate any chlorinated solvent contamination at the site. MDE will provide vapor abatement for the two impacted residential properties.

MDE will evaluate all data collected, to determine if additional sampling is warranted, to be protective of human health and the environment. The investigation and remediation of the release of PCE from this dry cleaning facility is ongoing.



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