

Montgomery County

1929-1995	Property occupied by a large dry cleaning facility.
2/12/99	VCP application received for the property.
3/17/99	The Department requested additional information and sampling data to complete the application package.
10/27/99	The Department issued revised sampling requirements to the applicant based on new information.
6/27/01	Groundwater sampling performed.
10/21/01	Supplemental groundwater sampling performed.
1/22/02	The Department issued an NFRD for commercial or industrial future use.

FORMER BELL CLEANERS 7106 Woodmont Avenue & 7008-7034 Wisconsin Avenue Bethesda, Maryland (Voluntary Cleanup Program)

Site Description

This 0.95-acre property is a one- to two-story retail development site located on the southeastern corner of the intersection of Wisconsin and Woodmont Avenues in Bethesda. It is comprised of nine retail shops, a vacant dry cleaning facility (the former Bell Cleaners), and a small paved parking area. The dry cleaning facility is attached to the northwest side of the retail shops. A blind alley separates the east side of the cleaners from the rear side of the retail center. A public alley bounds the west side of the site.

The property is located in a highly developed mixed commercial, retail, and residential section of Bethesda. Wisconsin & Woodmont, L.L.C. currently owns the property.

The site and vicinity are served by municipal water and sewer systems. The nearest surface water body is Willet Branch, a tributary of Little Falls, located approximately 0.5-mile southwest of the property.

Environmental Concerns

Bell Cleaners conducted dry cleaning on the property from circa 1929 to 1995. In addition, the site may also have housed a car dealership and/or repair shop in the past.

Previous environmental investigations of the property have identified the presence of tetrachloroethene (a solvent used extensively in the dry cleaning industry) and some of its breakdown products in the soil and shallow groundwater beneath the property. To date, the highest levels of tetrachloroethene detected in the groundwater and soil at the site are 3,840 ug/l and 236 ug/l, respectively.

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Status

On February 12, 1999, Wisconsin & Woodmont, L.L.C. submitted an application to the VCP. The Department reviewed the application and requested additional information and environmental sampling to complete the application package. The applicant responded to the Department's comments and, based on the information received, the Department issued revised sampling requirements to the applicant. On April 11, 2000, Wisconsin & Woodmont, L.L.C. provided the Department with the requested sampling data. The Department reviewed the data and, on June 9, 2000, notified the participant that additional groundwater sampling (at on-site and off-site locations) was necessary for the Department to determine if it had any remediation requirements for the site. Groundwater sampling occurred on June 27, 2001 and requested supplemental sampling occurred on October 21, 2001. The Department issued a No Further Requirements Determination for the property on January 22, 2002, conditioned on use of the property for restricted commercial or restricted industrial purposes.

Site Contact

James W. Metz Maryland Department of the Environment
Voluntary Cleanup/Brownfields Division

(410) 537 - 3493