

**MD-155
Baltimore County**

1959	Metal plating facility owned by Diecraft Inc. commenced operations and use of waste disposal system began.
1966	Bausch & Lomb assumed ownership.
1975	Use of waste disposal system desisted.
1985	DHMH initiated investigation and PA completed.
1987	Removal action completed for waste disposal system. Leica assumed ownership.
1989	MD completed site screening inspection.
1991	Independent Phase A/B investigations completed.
1992	MDE conducted expanded site inspection and Hazard Ranking System score prepared.
1993	MDE reviewed work plan for Interim Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
1995	Independent Interim Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study completed.
3/99	Operations ceased.
2/00	VCP application submitted by prospective purchaser, Western Run LLC.

**FORMER BAUSCH & LOMB DIECRAFT PLANT
14600 York Road
Sparks, Maryland
(Voluntary Cleanup Program)**

Site Description

This inactive Diecraft Plant, formerly owned by Bausch & Lomb, is located between York Road (Route 45) and Interstate 83 in Sparks, Baltimore County. The 27.94-acre property consists of an eastern upland parcel and a western lowland parcel. The eastern parcel consists of a single story building (101,000 sq. ft), paved parking lot (92, 000 sq. ft), and open grassland. The western parcel consists of a woodshed, woodlands and two feeder streams that converge into an unnamed tributary along the southwestern portion of the property. Access to the property is partially restricted by a chain-link fence. Land use in the vicinity is primarily commercial and residential.

Overland flow is directed westerly towards the intermittent feeder streams and the perennial unnamed tributary. These surface water bodies drain south-southwesterly and enter Western Run Creek (1 mile south) which discharges into the Loch Raven Reservoir (4.45 miles south). Groundwater beneath the property flows southwesterly under unconfined conditions in both the shallow overburden and the deeply fractured bedrock. Domestic wells are located within a half-mile radius of the property. Since 1976 the property has received municipal water and sewer services.

Site History

Originally part of a larger tract of land used for agricultural purposes, the facility was constructed in 1958 by Diecraft Inc., which began metal plating operations in 1959. On December 27, 1966, the property was purchased by Bausch & Lomb and on

January 5, 1966, L&B Limited, a subsidiary of Bausch & Lomb Incorporated, acquired the property. On December 9, 1987, Bausch & Lomb sold the property to Cambridge Instruments (now Leica Microsystems) but retained responsibility for past environmental conditions. In December 1994, Leica Microsystems leased the facility and sold the process equipment to Advanced Manufacturing International. In March 1999, manufacturing operations ceased.

For 40 years (1959 to 1999), the Diecraft Plant engaged in machining, plating, and degreasing operations of metal components used in optical equipment such as telescopes and microscopes. Metal parts were polished, acid etched, and plated with a variety of metals prior to assembly. Solvents originated from vapor degreasers, deburring machines, and tumblers. These activities generated large quantities of wastewater comprising spent plating solutions (principally heavy metals) and spent degreaser solvents (principally trichloroethene [TCE]). The wastewater streams were discharged to a waste disposal system located on the western portion of the property. This waste disposal system was comprised of settling tanks, an underground holding tank, a distribution box, a neutralization tank, an unlined earthen lagoon, three dry wells, and an overflow piping system.

Between 1959 and 1975, wastewater streams were treated in settling and neutralizing tanks and/or directly discharged to the lagoon and dry wells. Between 1975 and 1984, waste disposal practices were improved as electroplating was discontinued in favor of the anodizing technique; a solvent recovery

system was installed; spent solvents were containerized for disposal off-site; and the solvent, TCE, was changed to Genesolve (1,1,1-trichloroethane).

During the period of operation, the facility was monitored for compliance with controlled hazardous substances requirements in accordance with applicable regulations and standards of the State's Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA). The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) frequently inspected the facility until manufacturing operations ceased at the facility.

In December 1985, an Environmental Priorities Initiative Preliminary Assessment (PA) performed by DHMH –Waste Management Administration concluded that soil and groundwater were impacted by past waste disposal practices. Remediation in March and April 1988 involved the removal of the waste disposal system and excavation of sludge and soil from the lagoon and drywell areas. A site restoration program was also implemented to backfill, grade, and revegetate the entire property to control surface water runoff and soil erosion.

In November 1988, MDE's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (HSWMA) conducted a Site Screening Inspection (SSI) to gauge the success of the remediation. Groundwater, surface water and residential wells were sampled in the SSI. Sampling results indicated that contaminants of toxicological concern were not present in off-site residential wells. On February 21, 1991, MDE-HSWMA Enforcement Division issued a site complaint for three COMAR violations. Corrective actions were implemented and on August 30, 1991, MDE-HSWMA Enforcement Division determined that the facility was in compliance with COMAR requirements. In December 1992, an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) performed by MDE-HSWMA included sediment, surface water, groundwater, and residential well sampling. The ESI confirmed that on-site contaminants had not impacted off-site residential wells.

A series of environmental investigations, which included geophysical studies, soil gas surveys, and extensive sampling, was performed at the property between 1984 and 2000 by Bausch & Lomb contractors. Contaminants were identified on the western lowland parcel in the vicinity of the waste disposal system. Since the removal of the waste disposal system, contaminants of concern have significantly decreased in concentration for all affected media. This was confirmed by the monitoring program, which was implemented at the site in 1996.

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) Status

On February 15, 2000, Western Run L.L.C. submitted an application to the VCP seeking a No Further Requirement Determination and inculpable person status. The applicant, a prospective purchaser, was qualified for inculpable person status on February 25, 2000. Western Run LLC purchased the property on March 10, 2000. Supplemental investigations conducted in 2001 and 2002 indicated low levels of solvents and metals in the groundwater, soil and surface water.

The original building on the property has been retrofitted for use as an office complex. Tenants at the facility currently include a health insurance broker and an electrical sales and distribution center.

Facility Contact

Jim Metz

Maryland Department of the Environment
Voluntary Cleanup/Brownfields Division

(410) 537-3493