



BAE Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Site

This Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) fact sheet about the BAE Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Site, located in Fridley, Anoka County, Minnesota, will:

- summarize historical and investigation activities conducted during the remedial investigation,
- discuss the risks to human health and the environment that may be present at the site, and
- indicate the current status of the site.

Where is this site?

BAE RCRA Site is on East River Road in Fridley, approximately one mile south of Interstate Highway 694 and 0.4 mile east of the Mississippi River. The BAE RCRA Site is in the extreme southern end of the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) building and on land immediately south of the building. Please see the map below.

What is this site's background?

For a synopsis of the site history, see the [Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant \(NIROP\) Superfund Site fact sheet](#).

The source area of the BAE RCRA Site is a former paint shop in the original NIROP building. However, that portion of the building was torn down, and the area where the paint shop was located is now outside and east of the existing main building.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily the solvent trichloroethylene (TCE), were used as degreasers throughout the NIROP building and it is not clear how the TCE entered the groundwater in this area. The source area and the plume are small compared to the adjacent NIROP and FMC Corporation Superfund sites.

Although the site is being remediated under the RCRA Program, not the



Superfund Program, it is administered by MPCA Superfund staff who also administers the NIROP and FMC Corporation Superfund sites.

What's the cleanup history of this site?

The groundwater plumes of the NIROP Superfund Site and BAE RCRA Site are believed to be comingled within and downgradient of the property. For several years BAE Systems has been proposing monitored natural attenuation as the sole remedy for the site. In natural attenuation, the chemical and biological processes that occur naturally in soil and groundwater break down VOCs into harmless compounds. The MPCA has guidance for Monitored Natural Attenuation. BAE Systems and the MPCA believe that natural attenuation is occurring at the BAE RCRA Site at a rate that is protective of the potential receptor, the Mississippi River.

In September 2010, BAE Systems conducted a source area investigation outside the NIROP building to comply with the MPCA's Monitored Natural Attenuation of Chlorinated Solvents guidance. The MPCA has required BAE Systems to fully delineate the source area. The plume migration has not been a major concern because there is evidence that NIROP Superfund Site extraction well AT-5B and possibly extraction well AT-13 are capable of capturing most of the contamination that reaches the western boundary of the property.

Summary of site risks

The contaminants of concern are primarily TCE and its degradation products (1,2-dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride) in groundwater.

As far as potential risk receptors are concerned, there is evidence that the BAE RCRA Site's TCE groundwater plume mingles with the NIROP Superfund Site's groundwater plume, which is much larger and has higher contaminant concentrations in some areas. It has been difficult to determine whether the plume is capable of reaching any risk receptors, but calculations done by BAE Systems' environmental consultant using a natural attenuation model (BIOCHLOR, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) indicate that the groundwater plume may be becoming less concentrated and/or smaller before it reaches potential risk receptors.

Current status of this site

This BAE RCRA Site is part of a larger property that was enrolled in the MPCA's Voluntary Investigation Cleanup (VIC) Program in March 2012 by a private developer that plans to redevelop the area as an industrial park. The redevelopment will include further investigations under the oversight of the MPCA's VIC Program to determine environmental issues that must be addressed to safely redevelop the site for new commercial/industrial uses.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the BAE Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Site or its remediation, contact:

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To view documents in the MPCA's administrative record that contain more details on the cleanup activities at this site, call the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or toll-free at 800-657-3864.