

Former Hingham Shipyard

MCP COMPLIANCE PROJECT

Site Location:
Client:
Date:

Hingham, Massachusetts
Samuels and Associates Hingham LLC
2006 – present

The former Hingham Shipyard was built in the 1940s and produced ships throughout World War II. After the war, the property was leased for civilian use, and since 1966 has hosted a variety of businesses including a marina, automobile and boat repair facilities, machine and welding shops, and retail and storage spaces. Samuels & Associates Hingham LLC, a real estate firm, owns a portion of the former shipyard property and decided to redevelop the area for commercial and residential use.

In 2003, a consultant investigating a ruptured gasoline pipe in the vicinity of the former shipyard property discovered that elevated levels of chlorinated solvents in the air, soil, and groundwater existed as well. The source of the release, it turned out, was from a building in the shipyard facility that had been used in the 1970s to store tetrachloroethene (PCE), a common dry cleaning solvent.

O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) was hired in 2006 after offering a second opinion regarding a previous consultants' plan to use an expensive and ineffective oxidation technique. In evaluating the distribution of Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (CVOCs) at the Site, OTO observed that although low concentrations of these volatile contaminants had become widely distributed in groundwater across the property, over 90% of the PCE was contained in a relatively small area. Therefore, OTO decided that excavating the soil in this area would be the best strategy to remediate the release and prevent further groundwater pollution. Following the extraction of about 4,000 tons of impacted soil and 200,000 gallons of groundwater, OTO conducted a Method 3 Risk Characterization to assess future risks for exposure at the site. A Condition of No Significant Risk was determined, and an Activity and Use Limitation was implemented in order to ensure safe conditions in the future. The site reached closure in 2008 and is now completely safe for future users.

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