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Former Essex Wire Property

Fact Sheet ♦ 618 Fourth Street ♦ Three Rivers, Michigan

Background

- The former Essex Wire site was originally developed in the 1870s. A foundry and car company occupied the site along with Fairbanks Morse and Co. which produced electric and steam water pumps, railroad cars, diesel engines and other railroad equipment. The Essex Wire Company had a copper wire manufacturing operation on site from 1960 to the mid 1980s. Decatur Elevator used the facility for grain storage from the late 1980s until 1992. The property has been vacant since Decatur Elevator left in 1992. The City of Three Rivers then acquired the property on March 16, 1995.

Environmental Assessment Results

- The environmental site assessments conducted on the property found both hazardous substances and petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater.
- Specific contaminants identified include polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, and various metals.

Cleanup Options

- Removal of the “hot spots” of soil contaminated with metals
- Removal of old transformers and surrounding impacted soil
- Removal of debris contaminated with asbestos-containing material
- Institutional controls and security improvements

Cleanup Schedule

- Estimated from August 10th-31st