

Fact Sheet
Haley's Ditch Voluntary Site Monitoring
February 2006

Background

Lockheed Martin in Akron, Ohio is located at 1210 Massillon Road accessed from U.S. Route 224. The Airdock, an airship hangar, is located on the Lockheed Martin property. Built by Goodyear in 1929 as a facility for constructing rigid airships, the Airdock became part of Lockheed Martin Corporation in 1996, when it acquired Local Corporation. Loral purchased Goodyear Aerospace Corporation – and the Airdock – in 1987. Lockheed Martin employs approximately 500 people in Akron and is engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems, products and services.

This historical building was constructed using material coated with a fire retardant substance, which is now known to have contained Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are a mixture of chemicals that were used historically in manufacturing many consumer and industrial products because of their resistance to fire and insulating capacity. PCBs are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment because of their widespread use.

Field Work Results

Due to over 75 years of weathering, some of the Airdock's siding material has eroded and fallen onto the ground surrounding the Airdock. Some of this material has washed into the surrounding area by rain runoff. PCBs have been detected in sediment and soils in an enclosed fenced property owned by Lockheed Martin at the south end of what is known as Haley's Ditch and in an adjacent fenced property owned by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Corporation. Lockheed Martin has cleaned the Airdock's rain gutters and the storm runoff catch basins in an effort to control the continued discharge of PCBs. Lockheed Martin is working with the United States Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Akron to address the presence of PCBs within the area of Haley's Ditch.

Lockheed Martin, in cooperation with the EPA and the City of Akron, has been monitoring Haley's Ditch to determine if PCBs are present and if any clean up is necessary. Samples collected within Haley's Ditch downstream of Seiberling Street did not show significant traces of PCBs, so no further sampling is planned north of that point. Additional analysis is planned for area south of Seiberling Street to evaluate the presence of PCBs in this area.

The PCB concentrations found in the Haley's Ditch vicinity are at the parts-per-million level, near or below typical EPA cleanup standards. The potential route for human exposure is ingestion of dirt containing PCBs. Since the possibility of this is remote, the health hazard is minimal. Also, inhalation is unlikely since no activities in that area are causing dirt or sediment to become airborne. Further, because drinking water is supplied by the City of Akron, exposure to PCBs from potable drinking water is not a concern.

Next Steps

As part of this on-going investigation, the City of Akron and Lockheed Martin would like to collect and analyze the soils in Haley's Ditch and areas downstream in order to determine if PCBs are present. This is the reason for contacting the property owners of this specified area. We need your permission to monitor the soil on your property. If PCBs are determined to be present at a level that requires cleanup per the EPA standards, we are prepared to undertake appropriate actions to remediate the area.

Throughout the Airdock's history, its caretakers have taken great measures to keep the historic structure a part of the community and a potential resource. In 1976 almost 13,000 of the original sheet metal roof sections were replaced and the entire structure was coated in asphalt roof coating. Beginning in 1987 and continuing today, its owners have maintained the Airdock's condition, with the current rolled rubber roofing application covering 100 percent of the roof's surface area. As evidence has demonstrated, we are committed to ensuring the safety of the building and all who work and live around the Airdock.

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