

Bliffert's Lumber & Fuel Company

PUB-RR-814

February 2011

Bliffert's Lumber & Fuel Company

8747 North 107th Street
Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee County

1.69 Acres

Location: An industrial area of Northwest Milwaukee, adjacent to a rail line.

A property owner successfully completes the DNR's voluntary cleanup program ahead of a successful sale.

History

Initially, used as a rail yard, the property was purchased in 1955 by Bliffert's and operated as a family-run lumber yard for the next 45 years. Bliffert's Granville Lumber sold both lumber and fuel oil at the site.

Investigation and Cleanup

When underground storage tanks were removed from the property, there was evidence petroleum had leaked into the soil.

Cleanup of the property included a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, the removal of underground storage tanks and installation of groundwater monitoring. A full site investigation report was completed.

Limited residual contamination was permitted to remain at the site. To mitigate any exposure concerns, a land-use control – known as a “continuing obligation” – was put in place by the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program. This requires the property owner to contact DNR for approval prior to any activity which disturbs any residual contamination.



The former lumber yard is now home to a family-run roofing business (photo courtesy DNR).

Redevelopment

Once remediation was completed, the Bliffert family was able to secure a buyer for the property. J & M Granville LLC, purchased the site, which is now home to another locally-owned business, the Millen Roofing Company. The property also continues to produce tax revenue for the city and county.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>



Financial, Liability Technical, Assistance

The lumber yard owners chose to proceed with cleanup under the DNR's Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) process, helping clear up liability issues at the property and making the site much more marketable.

Remediation and Redevelopment Program staff provided oversight for the completion of the cleanup, allowing the DNR to approve closure for the Bliffert's property. In addition, the site received a VPLE Certificate of Completion in June 2004.

Contact

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