

Murray Machinery, Inc.

PUB-RR-740

October, 2005

Murray Machinery, Inc.

901 South 60th Avenue
Wausau, WI
Marathon County

138 Acres

Located along the Rib River just west of
downtown Wausau

A former factory with a history of using
the surrounding land to dispose of
industrial waste is cleaned up and gets a
second chance to give back to the
Wausau community.

History

This site was originally home to Murray Machinery, Inc., a foundry that produced castings, including gray-iron metal castings for the paper industry. From 1966-1988, such foundry wastes as sand, bottom ash, fly ash and slag were landfilled on the property. Cooling water and wastewater from air-emission control equipment were also discharged to a surface-water impoundment located on the property.

After Murray Machinery went bankrupt in 1993, contamination was discovered by the DNR. This environmental contamination included low level volatile compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile

organic compounds (SVOCs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The contaminants were located in the sediment and surface water of the impoundment, as well as in the groundwater. Additional site investigation turned up leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) that had caused gasoline contamination in the soil.



The Murray Machinery property prior to cleanup. The foundry was first established on this site in 1966 (DNR photo).

Investigation & Cleanup

The cleanup of this site began with the removal of four LUST's and remediation of the petroleum contaminated soil through a soil-vapor extraction system. These actions were conducted by Murray Machinery. Legal action was taken after the company failed to carry out a complete cleanup of the property; the company was required to turn over all its remaining assets to the court.

After these actions, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contracted for the



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

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



removal and disposal of metal contaminated sediments. A clay cover was also placed over portions of the foundry waste landfill where the metal-contaminated sediments were disposed.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) performed a state-funded response action and contracted for environmental monitoring of groundwater wells utilizing the Environmental Fund. The DNR also contracted for the placement of asphalt to serve as a final cover over the remaining areas of the foundry-waste landfill.



The site after cleanup. Four businesses are now operating on the property, including this truss manufacturer (DNR photo).

Redevelopment

Brownfield Investments, LLC, purchased the property after cleanup was complete. Currently four businesses are operating at this property; DMA Ventures, LLC; Riverstone, Inc.; Badger Attachments, Inc.; and Midwest Insulation Distribution Company (MIDCO).

Current operations at DMA Ventures, a non-metallic mining, sand-and-gravel operation, employs 67 people with an annual payroll of \$1.8 million.

Riverstone, a truss manufacturing facility, employs approximately 80 people at a payroll of about \$2.2 million.

In addition, the portion of the property leased to Badger Attachments, a manufacturer of heavy equipment attachments, employs approximately 80 people with an annual payroll of \$2.4 million.

The property and improvements are now assessed at \$388,600. Through legal action against Murray Machinery, more than \$5,000 in back taxes and \$9,000 in real estate taxes were collected. The former owner of Murray Machinery also pays approximately \$47,000 per year in property taxes for the portion of the property owned by DMA Ventures.

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

There were many parties that participated in the successful cleanup of this site. The DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program staff contributed by providing a general liability clarification letter, numerous technical reviews, and also helped provide state-funded response actions.

In 2000, The Wisconsin Department of Commerce awarded DMA Ventures a \$350,000 grant for the purpose of refurbishing the former foundry building and office area.

Contacts

Loren Brumberg
Project Manager
WI DNR Remediation and Redevelopment
Program
715-839-3770

Dave Schuurman
Brownfield Investments, LLC
715-842-4232

Dean Prohaska
DMA Ventures, LLC
715-359-9767

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

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