

Questions and answers pertaining to ABC One-Hour Cleaners, Inc.

Q: I would be interested to know the financial situation of ABC Cleaners?

A: Unknown

Q: Are they still in business?

A: Yes, at the Public Meeting for ABC Cleaners Operable Unit 2 (soil remediation) a representative from the EPA (Public Relations Office) stated that it was not the intention of the EPA to put ABC Cleaners out of business.

Q: How big an operation?

A: Unknown; however, while a fairly small operation in size, they appear to do a fairly large amount of business.

Q: Are they part of a chain?

A: No.

Q: Do we know who their lawyer is and from what firm?

A: Mr. Rich Cone, esq. (telephone: (704) 342-5303) contacted Major Jensen (EACO) and said that he (Mr. Cone) represents ABC Cleaners. [When I called this telephone number I was informed that it was the office of Mr. Rick Cane in the law firm of Poyner and Spull.]

Q: Additionally, are there any other possible PRPs that either EPA or we could possibly look to for recovery of any response costs?

A: Glam-O-Rama Cleaners was previously located at the intersection of Corbin Street and Lejeune Blvd (also up gradient from the Tarawa Terrace wells). This building and operation is now part of the Coastal Dry Cleaners chain. It is unknown if any environmental investigation has occurred at this location.

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Other questions pertaining to ABC One-Hour Cleaners, Inc.

Q: The material that I have seen so far indicates that the contaminant involved is PCE (Tetrachloroethylene) – which I believe is a solvent?

A: According to "The Condensed Chemical Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition", Revised by Gessner G. Hawley, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1987 –

Perchloroethylene (tetrachloroethylene) is used as: Dry-cleaning solvent; vapor-degreasing solvent; drying agent for metals and certain other solids; vermifuge; heat-transfer medium; and in the manufacture of fluorocarbons.

Q: Are there any other known contaminants in the groundwater at issue?

A: Along with the PCE, Trichloroethylene (TCE) and 1,2-Dichloroethylene (1,2-DCE) were identified in the Tarawa Terrace supply water wells. PCE; TCE; 1,2-DCE; and vinyl chloride were found in the groundwater at the ABC Cleaners site. TCE, 1,2-DCE, and vinyl chloride are degradation components of PCE.

Q: I gather that Tarawa Terrace housing is down gradient from ABC Cleaners?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there any possible sources of PCE at Camp Lejeune that are up gradient from Tarawa Terrace that could have gotten into the groundwater?

A: No. Wells TT-25 and TT-26 are located practically right on the Base boundary line. Upgradient from these wells is off Base.

Q: I understand that EPA signed a ROD in January 1993. Has remedial work actually begun?

A: No. Construction of the pump and treat system is complete; however, remediation is scheduled to commence in January, 1999.

Q: How did we hear that ABC Cleaner's attorney suggested that we might also be a PRP?

A: According to an E-mail generated by Major Darren Jump (EACO) to Mr. Neal Paul (Installation Restoration Division Director, Environmental Management Department, MCB, Camp Lejeune): "On 5 October 1998, Major Jensen [EACO] received a call from Mr. Rich Cone, esq. (Mr. Cone's phone number is [REDACTED] Mr. Cone told Major Jensen that he (Mr. Cone) represents ABC 1-Hour Dry Cleaners in PRP negotiations with the US EPA regarding remediation of PCE groundwater contamination at or near Tarawa Terrace and the City of Jacksonville, NC. Mr. Cone revealed that the U.S. EPA's "documentation" revealed a strange pattern of PCE groundwater contamination with a concentration of PCE contaminants suggesting more than one contamination plume. Mr. Cone also revealed that he has personally observed a "pump and treat" groundwater remediation site at an "auto hobby shop" within Tarawa Terrace. (Mr. Cone apparently believes the USMC released PCE to groundwater from this "auto hobby shop" site and the Marine Corps might also be a PRP to PCE contamination near Tarawa Terrace.)"

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Q: What exactly did he/she say – if we know?

A: The previous answer was taken directly from an E-mail and appears to fairly well answer this question.

Q: Do we have anything in writing?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: Is there anything from EPA in writing indicating our suspected involvement or lack thereof?

A: The ROD for the ABC One-Hour Cleaners Site, Jacksonville, North Carolina, Operable Unit 1, written by the U.S. EPA, Region IV, Atlanta, Georgia, and signed 26 January 1993 has two passages that refer to our lack of involvement:

Page 16, second paragraph: "During the same time period [June 1985], the Wilmington Regional Office (WiRO) of the Division of Environmental Management, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NCDNRCD), now called North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (NCDEHNR), was notified by the United States Marine Corps, that two deep water wells in the Tarawa Terrace housing area at the Base were contaminated by what appeared to be off-site sources. From April through September 1985, WiRO staff conducted a groundwater pollution study to define the source of PCE in wells within the Tarawa Terrace well field. The study concluded that the most likely source of groundwater contamination was determined to be ABC One-Hour Cleaners, Inc."

Page 16, fourth paragraph: "Subsequent to the receipt of the Notice of Violation issued by NCDNRCD, ABC One-Hour Cleaners contracted the services of Law Engineering and testing, Inc., to conduct preliminary investigation of the septic tank soil absorption system and surrounding soils. The results of two preliminary investigations conducted on April 8, 1986 and September 10-11, 1986, confirmed the presence of PCE and its derivatives in soils immediately surrounding the septic tank and adjacent to an existing floor drain. Thus, ABC One-Hour Cleaners was confirmed as the source of groundwater contamination."

Q: Have we heard anything from EPA concerning our possible involvement at all?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: Have we spent any money to respond to the problem – eg., pump and treat costs, alternative water supply required – if so, how much (maybe there is an affirmative action to recover our response costs in here someplace)?

A: The approximate cost for alternative water supply, including three new supply water wells and the pump and piping required to bring water from Bldg. 670 to Tarawa Terrace is: \$964,566.20

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Q: Do we have a copy of the ROD? If so, I would like a copy. Same for the 1985 North Carolina Groundwater Pollution Study.

A: The Base has one copy of the ROD. We do not have a copy of the 1985 NC Groundwater Pollution Study.

Q: What is the estimated cost of the EPA remedial action?

A: Estimated cost of the groundwater remediation is \$2,262,900 according to the ROD.

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