Collins & Aikman Plant (Former) Superfund Site
Farmington
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The Collins & Aikman Plant (Former) Superfund Site property (the Site) is a 123-acre parcel located at 56 Davidson Drive along NH Route 11 in Farmington, NH. The Site is bordered to the northeast by NH Route 11; to the southeast by agricultural land and Meeting House Hill Road; to the southwest by agricultural and undeveloped land; and to the northwest by Paulson Road and Pound Road.

In 1964, Davidson Rubber Company (DRC) purchased the property. Between 1964 and 2002, there were 3 owners and several name changes, including Davidson Textron, Inc. Textron Automotive Interiors, Inc., and Collins & Aikman Automotive Interiors, Inc. In 2007, ownership of the property was transferred to the New Hampshire Custodial Trust (the Trust).

The majority of the 123-acre Site consists of undeveloped wooded areas and remnants of the concrete floor from the former facility. According to previous reports, the former actively used area of the Site occupied approximately 33 acres and included a 232,000-square foot (ft^2) manufacturing building, a 60,000-ft^2 warehouse, and paved areas which covered most of the remaining facility area. The manufacturing building was demolished in 2010. In 2013, the warehouse along with a 10-acre tract of land was sold to Metal Farm, LLC.

According to available documentation, from 1996 to the early 2000s, operations conducted at the facility included the manufacture of instrumentation panel pads for automobiles and trucks. The instrumentation panel pads consisted of polyurethane foam in a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) shell. Manufacturing processes conducted at the facility included polyurethane foam molding, construction of PVC shells, and the assembly of the finished panels. Paint operations were also conducted at the facility; however, the paint line was removed in 1983. The manufacturing processes involved the use of solvents, some of which had been inadvertently released to soil, ground water, and surface water at the facility since the facility began operation in 1966. Solvents used at the facility included isopropyl alcohol, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), methylene chloride, acetone, xylene, toluene, methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). Wastes produced by the manufacturing processes were derived primarily from the cleaning of metal and epoxy molds; cleaning of air compressors and paint guns; and reclamation of materials, including PVC, from defective panels. In an undated NH Industrial Waste Survey, DRC indicated that an average of 28,000 gallons of wastewater was discharged to the percolation lagoons

daily, and methylene chloride and PCE were recycled or recovered from operation wastes.

Organic solvents, including PCE, MEK, xylene, and methylene chloride, were stored in above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) that were located 90 feet southwest of the south corner of the manufacturing building, and which were connected to the building via underground piping. In 1977, a documented spill of PCE solvent occurred during refilling of an AST. Additional solvent releases from leaking underground piping also occurred. The ASTs and associated underground piping were removed in 1985.

A former septic and leachfield area existed northwest of the former manufacturing building, between the manufacturing building and the warehouse. According to previous reports, from 1966 to 1983, floor washings and inadvertent chemical spills may have been discharged to the septic and leachfield system. Based on the presence of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) in ground water in this area, discharge of aqueous-phase CVOCs to the leachfields has likely occurred.

Investigations of environmental conditions at the property began in 1984 after low concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the GP2 municipal drinking water supply well. The GP2 supply well is located downgradient of the facility within the sand and gravel aquifer of the property formerly known as the Sarah Greenfield Property (SGP). PCE and its breakdown products were first detected in this well in 1983 and it was deactivated.

The Site consists of three primary sources, including documented releases of several hazardous substances to the overburden/bedrock aquifer. The three sources consist of the following: leaks and spills from the former PCE solvent AST and piping, located south of the (now demolished) manufacturing building; a former percolating lagoon system, which included three lagoons located southeast of the former manufacturing building, along NH Route 11; and a septic system tank, formerly located northwest of the manufacturing building. VOCs including PCE; TCE; trans-1,2-dichloroethene (trans-1,2-DCE); cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE); vinyl chloride (VC); methylene chloride; MEK; toluene; and xylene have been identified as contaminants at the Site.

A groundwater pumping system was designed to contain contaminated groundwater emanating from releases of PCE at the former above-ground storage system and underground lines south and at the rear of the former manufacturing plant building, as well as from releases to the former septic leach field area northwest of the manufacturing plant building. The design goal for the containment system was to cut off the migration of contaminants in groundwater at the property line of the Site. A sand and gravel aquifer, located downgradient and northeast of the Site, formerly supplied water to the Town of Farmington via municipal pumping well GP2.

The groundwater containment system began operation in the summer of 1995. By 2005 it became apparent that the system was not containing contaminants as designed. The Trust continued to operate the groundwater containment system after its acquisition of the property in October 2007 in hopes that consistent operation of the existing system would result in partial containment of contaminant migration toward the downgradient aquifer. Operation of the system prior to 2007 was interrupted by several equipment failures; modifications had been made in 2004 to improve the system. The containment system was not designed to contain migration of contaminants in the bedrock aquifer, and the bedrock is a pathway for contaminant migration from the Site. Investigations conducted after completion of system design and installation discovered higher concentrations of groundwater contaminants in both overburden and bedrock located west of the zone of capture for the existing system. Evaluation of these new understandings suggested that sufficient contamination escaped the capture zone of the containment system in the overburden and bedrock groundwater and that continued operation of the system would be ineffective. The containment system was deactivated on June 2, 2014.

In December 2013, the Site was added to the National Priorities List. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) subsequently conducted a potentially responsible party (PRP) search and was unable to identify a PRP. The NHDES is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) through a cooperative agreement with EPA. The RI/FS process began in 2015 with a thorough review of previous data and investigations toward development of a baseline Conceptual Site Model and identification of data gaps; development of off-Site property access agreements; installation of additional monitoring wells, well points, and staff gauges to enable improved understanding of hydraulic conditions; temperature and conductivity profiling, and pore water sampling of Pokamoonshine Brook; and limited bedrock hydrogeologic investigations, including borehole geophysics, surficial and bedrock geologic mapping, and fracture-trace analysis. Groundwater sampling, surficial geophysical surveying, and Site feature position and elevation surveying were completed in 2016 and 2017. Additional surficial geophysical work and an extensive soil boring and sampling program were conducted in 2018 in the developed area of the former manufacturing plant site, along with additional Pokamoonshine Brook temperature profiling and pore water sampling. This work is anticipated to be followed in 2019 by additional subsurface characterization (installation of additional wells and comprehensive groundwater sampling) in areas targeted by the preceding phases of the Remedial Investigation.