



Collins & Aikman Plant (Former) Superfund Site Farmington

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The Collins & Aikman Plant (Former) Superfund Site (Site) is located in Farmington, New Hampshire. The Site includes the former Collins & Aikman facility and real property, located on two parcels south of New Hampshire Route 11: (i) a 96-acre parcel located on Davidson Drive, identified by the Town of Farmington Tax Assessor's office as Map R31, Lot 34; and (ii) a 10-acre parcel located at 56 Davidson Drive, identified by the Town of Farmington Tax Assessor's office as Map R36, Lot 2. Collectively, these parcels are referred to as the former Collins and Aikman Automotive Interiors, Inc. property (Property). The Site also extends into and includes an approximate 242-acre area north of New Hampshire (NH) Route 11 affected by the Site-related groundwater contaminant plume. The affected area north of Route 11 is roughly bounded by NH Route 11 to the southwest, the Cocheco River to the east, and Pokamoonshine Brook to the north/northwest.

Currently, the Property consists of undeveloped wooded areas and contains remnants of the concrete foundation/floor of the 267,000 square foot (ft²) (6.1 acres) former manufacturing building which was demolished in 2010 and the surrounding paved parking areas and driveways for the building. The former actively used area of the Property reportedly occupied approximately 33 acres, and included the manufacturing building, a 60,000-ft² warehouse, and paved areas which covered most of the remaining active portion of the Property. In 2013, the 10-acre parcel with the warehouse was subdivided from the original, larger 106-acre former-Collins & Aikman property and sold to Metal Farm, LLC, a commercial metal recycler. In 2022, the 10-acre parcel with the warehouse was sold to Seventy6 Holton LLC for use as a storage facility.

In 1965, Davidson Rubber Company, Inc. (DRC) purchased the Property, and manufacturing operations began in 1966 following construction of a 115,000-ft² manufacturing building. Expansions to the building were completed in 1967, 1973, and 1977, increasing the building to a final size of approximately 267,000-ft². In 1977, a separate, approximately 60,000-ft² warehouse building was constructed near the northwest corner of the property.

From 1965 to 2001, ownership varied. In 2001, Collins and Aikman Products Company purchased the business and renamed it Collins and Aikman Automotive Interiors, Inc., which ceased operations in 2006. In 2005, Collins and Aikman Corporation filed for bankruptcy for itself and its subsidiary companies, including Collins and Aikman Automotive Interiors, Inc. In October 2007, as a part of the bankruptcy proceedings, ownership of the original 106-acre Collins and Aikman property was transferred to the New Hampshire Custodial Trust (the Trust).

Reportedly, operations conducted at the facility included the manufacturing 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. Painting operations were also conducted at the facility. The manufacturing processes involved the use of solvents, some of which were released to groundwater, soil, and surface water at the facility. Solvents used at the facility reportedly included: acetone, isopropyl alcohol, methylene chloride, methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), tetrachloroethene (PCE), toluene, trichloroethene (TCE), and xylene.

The Site has been the subject of numerous investigations and remedial activities since 1983 when low concentrations of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) were detected in the Town of Farmington municipal drinking water supply well GP-2. The GP-2 supply well is located approximately 3,500 feet northeast and downgradient of the former manufacturing facility, within a sand and gravel aquifer underlying the Cocheco River. In December 2013, the Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL).

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 used in the 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, along with additional Pokamoonshine Brook temperature profiling and pore water sampling. Additional subsurface characterization work (i.e., installation of additional wells and comprehensive groundwater sampling) was performed in 2019 and 2020 in areas targeted based on the preceding phases of the RI. During preparation of the RI report, data gaps were identified, and additional investigations were performed in 2022. Finalization of the RI report that identifies the level and extent of contamination in various media, and a FS report that lays out and compares remedial alternatives, are anticipated in early 2024.