

DICO COMPANY, INC.
(Des Moines, Iowa)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site is located within the city of Des Moines on land described as the East 1/2 of Section 8, T78N, R24W, Polk County, Iowa and Pt. Lot 1, Tax Parcel 926-2-3. The property is owned by Titan Wheel International, Inc. The site was entered on the Registry in 1984. The EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. The EPA and the IDNR initially discovered trichloroethylene (TCE) in the Des Moines water supply in 1975 during a national survey of water supplies, it was determined that TCE was released on the Dico property. The facility has been idle since the late 1980s. The property had been owned by Titan prior to property transfer to the City of Des Moines in 2021.

Pesticide-contaminated soils were discovered in at Dico in 1987 during the construction of the groundwater treatment system. These soils were excavated and stored on-site, then land-farmed on-site, and capped. Subsequent investigations found pesticides in buildings and shallow soils throughout the site. These are primarily banned pesticides including aldrin, dieldrin and DDT.

SITE CLASSIFICATION

In 2001 the classification of this site was revised to “d” Site properly closed, requires continued management.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

- **TCE, vinyl chloride, and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene are the major contaminants which have been observed in the groundwater at the facility.**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Dico site is located on the floodplain of the Raccoon River just west of downtown Des Moines in an industrial and business area of the city. The Des Moines Water Works plant is located about 2,500 feet southwest of the Dico plant. The northernmost portion of the water works infiltration gallery is about 900 feet from the Dico plant. The Des Moines Water Works serves a population of about 300,000. In September 1983 TCE was measured at 94 ppb in the Des Moines water supply. The amount of TCE in the drinking water was greatly decreased by closing an additional valve in the North Gallery in October 1983. Presently, the Des Moines Water Works tests the water each day for a variety of chemicals, including TCE, to assure safe levels in the drinking water. No significant contamination has been found in water from the North Gallery since the groundwater remediation system was put into operation in 1987.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT, MONITORING OR REMEDIAL ACTIONS

An administrative order was issued to Dico in 1986 requiring response actions at the site. These response actions consist of:

- Isolating the northernmost portion of the North Gallery from the remainder of the gallery system with a physical barrier to restrict groundwater flow into the North Gallery.
- Groundwater collection and removal systems to collect the contaminated groundwater and to control groundwater movement.
- Treatment and discharge of the extracted groundwater and release to the Raccoon River until the water in the aquifer is cleaned to below drinking water standards.

In December 1987, groundwater recovery system became operational. This system consists of seven recovery wells, which pump ground water to an air stripper for treatment prior to discharge to the Raccoon River. The system continues to effectively control the contaminant plume and prevent contaminants from entering the Des Moines Water Works infiltration gallery. The system has removed about 3,000 gallons of TCE since its startup in 1987. Levels of TCE entering the air stripper have decreased from about 2,500 ppb initially to about 200-300 ppb currently. Continued operation of the groundwater recovery system and monitoring of groundwater is planned.

Remedial action to address the residual pesticide contamination in the plant buildings and soils around the site were completed in 1994. These actions included cleaning and sealing of interior building surfaces and placing an asphalt cap over soils with residual contamination. Additional remedial investigations to better define the contaminant source and address residual pesticide contamination were finalized in 1996. A Record of Decision (ROD) incorporating both investigations was completed in 1996. The ROD acknowledged the work done to clean the site buildings and the placement of the asphalt cap over soils with contaminants as final actions. In addition, the ROD requires routine maintenance of the building and cap, periodic sampling of sediments in the “South Pond Area”, and land use restrictions to prevent inappropriate use of the site. Dico ceased manufacturing operations at the site in 1995.

Buildings #4 and 5 were demolished in 2007. In April 2013 the fifth Superfund five-year review was released which concluded that the remedy remains protective in the short term, but recommends additional actions to ensure protection in the long-term..

Actions in **2013** included continued operation of the groundwater pump-and-treat system and groundwater monitoring.

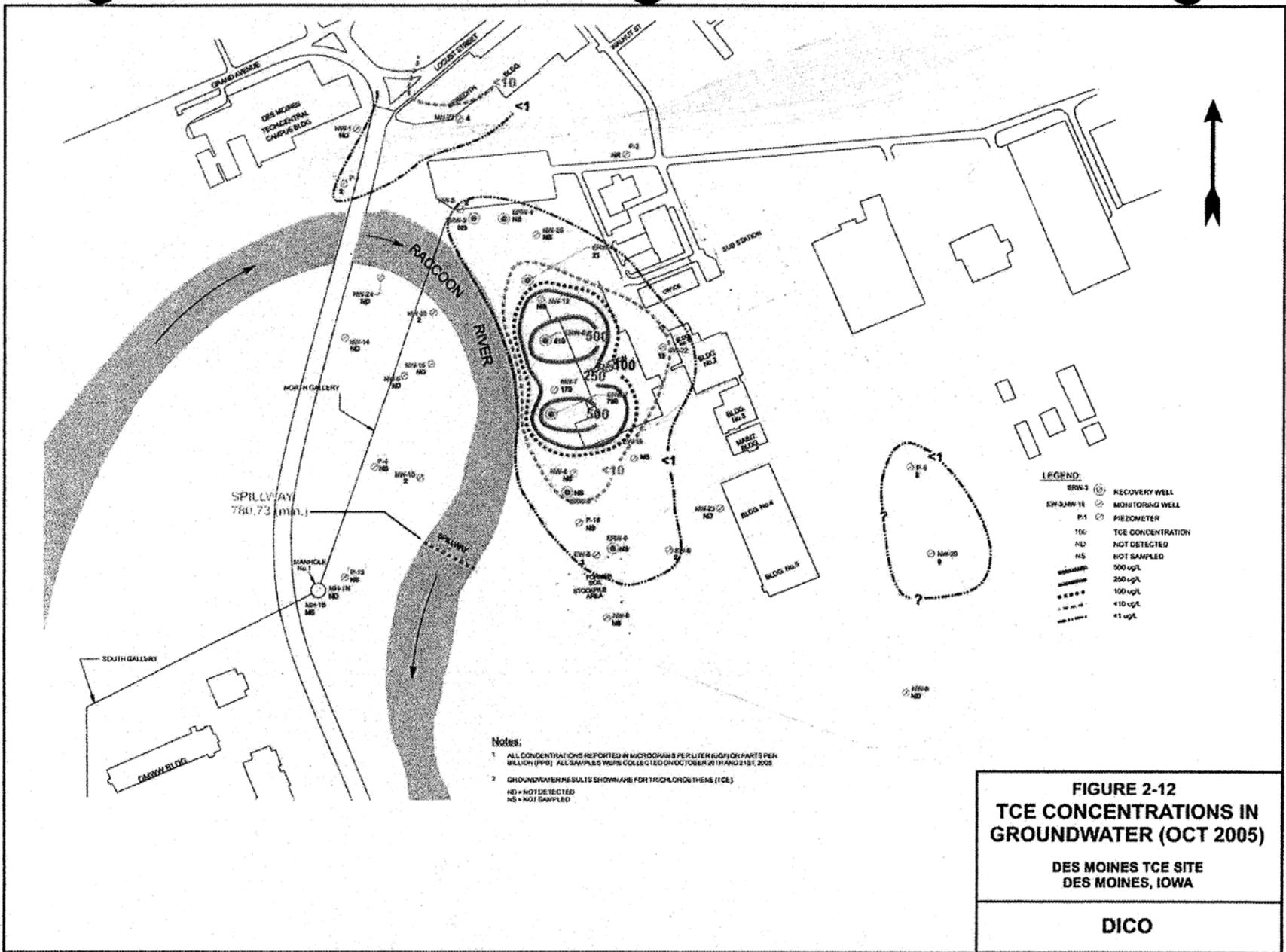
Actions in **2017**; The operation of the groundwater pump-and-treat system and groundwater monitoring continues. Recent soil and building materials sampling have been analyzed and negotiations concerning building demolition and disposal are ongoing. Several options for site redevelopment are being discussed. Unresolved legal issues are being debated but remain unresolved. The 6th Five Year Review has been initiated.

2018: The Five-Year Review was completed to evaluate the implementation and performance of the remedy to determine if the remedy is or will be protective of human health and the environment. The Remedial Alternative Cost Estimates for the South Pond Area Technical Memorandum was completed. The Preliminary Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) Evaluation Report was completed. The Building Decommissioning Assessment (BDA) was conducted for eight structures, designated as Building 1, Building 2, Building 3, Slab 4, Slab 5, Maintenance Slab, Former Office Building and Production Building.

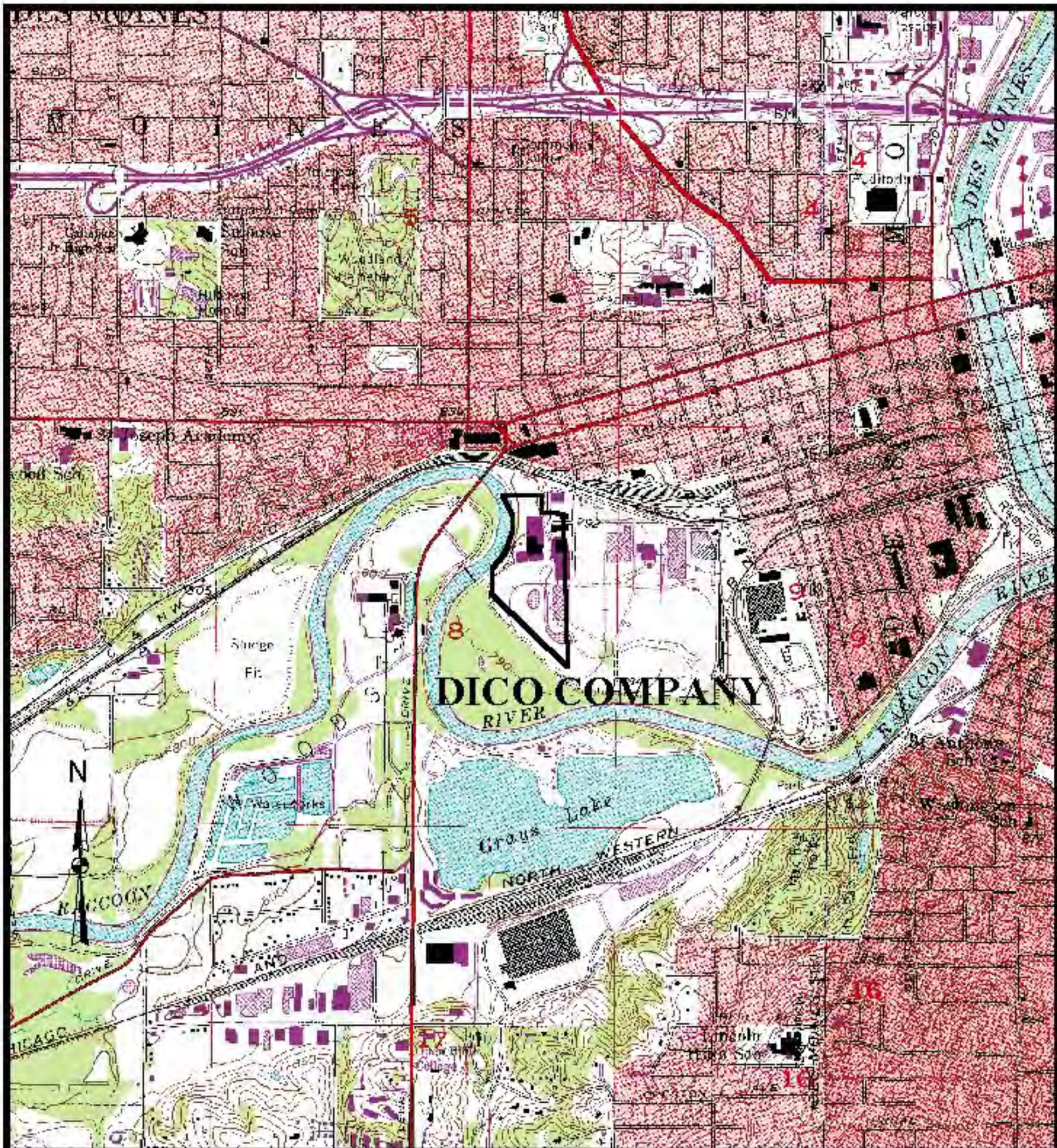
2019: DOJ judgment against DICO has been upheld. Negotiations between the City of Des Moines, Titan Tire and EPA are ongoing

2020: Agreement between DOJ and DICO (Titan) has been reached. Negotiations between the City of Des Moines, Titan Tire and EPA are settled (if not signed) and City of Des Moines will take possession. EPA will demolish and remove on-site building that are included in OU-2

2021: Negotiations for the transfer of ownership of the site to the city of Des Moines have been completed. Demolition of on-site buildings has been initiated by EPA.



(Dico Company)



Contour Interval 10 Feet

