



SPECTRON INC. SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE

TOWN OF ELKTON, CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

NOVEMBER 2011

EPA is conducting a public comment period and holding a public meeting to ensure interested community members have an opportunity to participate in the remedy selection process for this site. EPA is committed to keeping the community informed about and involved in site-related activities throughout the agency's cleanup actions. For more information, please visit our website often at: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/MDD000218008/>

EPA ANNOUNCES PROPOSED PLAN

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) PROPOSES TO MODIFY THE REMEDY FOR OU-1 AT THE SPECTRON INC. SUPERFUND SITE.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (PRAP) SIGNED YOUR COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED

On October 14, 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan) which describes EPA's Preferred Alternative for modifying Operable Unit 1 (OU-1): Soil and Overburden Groundwater at the Spectron, Inc. Superfund Site (the Site). The proposed remedy modification consists of in-situ thermal treatment of principal threat waste (dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) and light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL)) in the overburden and installation of an asphalt cap over contaminated soils. The Proposed Plan recommends modifying the portion of the 2004 OU-1 ROD which required in-situ reductive dechlorination of principal threat waste and installation of a RCRA modified cap, including a geosynthetic membrane, over contaminated soils. The remaining components of the 2004 OU-1 ROD, including continued operation of a stream isolation/groundwater treatment system (SI/GWTS), demolition of onsite structures, grading of the Site, and institutional controls, will not be modified.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

EPA compared several potential Remedial Alternatives before identifying the agency's Preferred Remedial Alternative. The other Remedial Alternatives that were evaluated in the Pre-Design Investigation/ Focused Feasibility Study (PDI/FFS) included the following:

- Alternative DNAPL-1 – Natural Dissolution
- Alternative DNAPL-2 – Enhanced Groundwater Extraction and ReInjection
- Alternative DNAPL-3 – Enhanced In Situ Reductive Dechlorination (IRD)
- Alternative DNAPL-4 – In Situ Chemical Oxidation
- Alternative DNAPL-6 – In Situ Thermal Treatment, Partial DNAPL Treatment Area/Natural Dissolution.

For more information about these alternatives, visit EPA's site website.

To ensure that the community has an opportunity to participate in the Superfund decision-making process, a **public comment period opened October 14, 2011. It will close on November 18, 2011.** During this time, the public is encouraged to submit comments on the Proposed Plan to EPA. Written comments and questions about the Proposed Plan may be sent to the contacts listed on page 2.

PUBLIC MEETING

A **public meeting** will be held to discuss the Proposed Plan on **November 8, 2011**, from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The public meeting will be held at **Cherry Hill Middle School Auditorium**; 2535 Singerly Road, Elkton, MD 2192

WHAT ARE DNAPLs & LNAPLs?

A DNAPL, or dense non-aqueous phase liquid, is one of a group of organic substances that are relatively insoluble in water and more dense than water. DNAPLs tend to sink vertically through sand and gravel aquifers to the underlying layer.

An LNAPL, or light non-aqueous phase liquid, is one of a group of organic substances that are relatively insoluble in water and are less dense than water. LNAPLs, such as oil, tend to spread across the surface of the water table and form a layer on top of the water table.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Site is located approximately six miles north of Elkton, Maryland, and is situated in a stream valley formed by Little Elk Creek, which flows through the Site from north to south. The former Spectron, Inc. property consists of approximately five acres and was used for solvent recycling and fuel blending from 1962 to 1988. *(Site Background cont'd on page 2)*

SITE BACKGROUND CONT'D

The facility reportedly handled more than one million gallons of liquids per year when in operation and operations at the Site resulted in contamination of the soil and overburden material, overburden groundwater, and bedrock groundwater. The Site was abandoned by the owner in 1988. Prior to solvent recycling, the Site operated as a paper mill until it was destroyed by fire in 1954. The mill buildings, except for the former Power House building, were subsequently razed. Residential, wooded, and agricultural properties surround the Site.

DNAPL and contaminated groundwater from the Site historically discharged into Little Elk Creek until EPA conducted a Removal Action from 1998 to 2000 to isolate the stream from the contaminant seeps by installing a Stream Isolation/Groundwater Treatment System (SI/GWTS). The Removal Action consisted of temporarily diverting the stream, excavating contaminated sediments, and installing a drain system to capture the seeps. The drain system was then covered with an impermeable membrane and rock-filled gabion mats and soil and native plants were installed to recreate the original stream contours. Water collected in the drain system is treated onsite before being released back into the stream. Today, the Little Elk Creek looks like a natural stream and the SI/GWTS has been effective in eliminating contaminant discharge. The SI/GWTS will continue to operate as required by the 2004 ROD for OU-1.

HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PLAN?

Comments must be postmarked or emailed by midnight November 18, 2011. They may be submitted to:

John Epps, Remedial Project Manager

US EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street (3HS22)

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Phone: 215-814-3144

Email: epps.john@epa.gov

For additional information or to share concerns about the site, contact:

Carrie Deitzel, Community Involvement

Coordinator

Phone: 215-814-5525

Email: deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

Site information is also available on the internet:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/MDD000218008/>

To review Site files in person, please contact:
Cecil County Library
301 Newark Ave.
Elkton MD 21921
Phone: 410-996--5600
US EPA Region 3
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
For an appointment:
Paul Van Reed at: 215-814-3157

Address Label

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Carrie Deitzel
Mailcode 3HS52
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

