



Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site

Columbia County, Pennsylvania

Structural Support Work and Demolition Update



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

August 2013

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing its ongoing cleanup effort at the Safety Light Corp. (SLC) Superfund Site, located in South Centre Township, Pennsylvania. The cleanup work is divided into three separate parts, called Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addresses on-site buildings and debris, OU-2 addresses on-site groundwater and OU-3 addresses on-site soils, surface water and sediment. This fact sheet provides an update on current and upcoming activities for OU-1.

Structural Support Work Completed

EPA completed work to stabilize one of the remaining structures on-site, while awaiting demolition funding. The Main Building is abandoned and showed signs of severe deterioration. For Site safety EPA needed to stabilize this structure while waiting to begin the next phase of work which is building dismantling and debris removal.

Next Steps

First, EPA will remove some items associated with the stabilization work completed during the winter and spring. EPA will also be stabilizing an old dumping area (West Dump) located near the Site's southwest borderline. And, as mentioned in our last fact sheet, EPA plans to dismantle and remove the remaining structures and related debris off-site. This work will need to be managed in phases, as funding for the radioactive-contaminated materials demolition project becomes available. There are six structures that will be dismantled in this next phase of work. (see photo).

Upcoming dismantling and debris removal work will include:

- Removing the buildings;
- Dust suppression during the work activities;
- Packaging the debris for transportation;
- Potentially staging items prior to disposal; and
- Transporting the waste to an out-of-state facility.

What You May Notice

Once dismantling work begins, workers will be wearing standard Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as overalls, booties, breathing masks, hardhats, and/or safety goggles. It is required that workers wear safety gear as part of their daily job duties. It will not be necessary for nearby residents to wear similar gear.

Dust suppression techniques will be used to help ensure Site-related contamination remain on-site.

EPA will be working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to monitor air quality during Site activities.

Most truck traffic will use Old Berwick Road (Route 11) to Interstate-80. Site-related debris will be sorted into separate categories: Hazardous and/or radioactive-contaminated materials and non-hazardous materials. Radioactive-contaminated materials will be transported to a licensed facility located out of state. Non-hazardous materials can be disposed of in licensed landfills located throughout the state.

Estimated Work Time Frame

- August: Removal activities begin
- August—September: The West Dump area stabilization activities begin.
- September-October Building dismantling activities begin.

This approximate time frame is subject to change and estimated to take about three months to complete, pending weather conditions and transportation schedules.

There will be some over-packed containers and drums staged on-site until proper disposal can be arranged. Because of past trespassing and burglary attempts, EPA has implemented extra on-site security precautions, including after-hours security personnel, to help prevent any unauthorized removal of contaminated materials.

EPA has been, and will continue to work closely with PADEP Bureau of Radiation Protection during Site activities.

Photo: The six structures circled will be dismantled next.



Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located in South Centre Township, PA, between the Susquehanna River and Old Berwick Road. It is approximately 10 acres and bordered mostly by residential properties and the Susquehanna River. Past activities at the Site include the manufacturing of self-illuminated watches and instrument dials; smoke detectors; exit signs, and other products containing radioactive materials (such as radium-226, strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium).

2005 –2007: EPA’s Removal program (short-term cleanup) unearthed, categorized and packaged about 4,800 cubic feet of wastes, including drums and other containers of historical radioactive wastes. EPA removed the drums for off-site storage and disposal at licensed and/or permitted facilities.

2005—present: EPA’s Remedial program (long-term cleanup) is conducting extensive studies and performing cleanup actions at the Site in three separate pieces, called “operable units.”

- OU-1 = remaining buildings and structures,
- OU-2 = contaminated onsite groundwater, and
- OU-3 = contaminated onsite soils/sediments/ surface water.

2009: EPA demolished seven on-site structures and removed the related debris off-site to a properly licensed facility.

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For More Information

This fact sheet and other Site-related documents are available on-line for review at:

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD987295276/index.htm

or

www.epa.gov/arweb

Documents are also available locally, at:

Bloomsburg Area Public Library
225 Market St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

If you have additional questions, please contact one of the representatives listed below:

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