



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site

Columbia County, Pennsylvania



Cleanup Progress and Community Update

June 2008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using both its Superfund Removal and Remedial Programs in the cleanup effort at the Safety Light Corp. (SLC) Superfund Site, located in South Centre Township, Pennsylvania. EPA's Removal Program focuses on addressing immediate Site-related risks, and the Remedial Program focuses on long-term cleanup remedies. This fact sheet provides an update on both programs' progress at the Site.

EPA Removal Program Work Done to Date

Protective Steps against Possible Flood Damage

Because of previous flooding in the area, precautionary steps were taken to help ensure that the Site will not be affected by severe weather conditions. Precautionary action included:

- Removing tree branches that were near buildings,
- Reinforcing the Site's riverfront slope,
- Staging containerized materials, and
- Consolidating the remaining stored equipment.

Off-Site Removal of Radioactive Materials

EPA has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to separate and categorize the mixed waste, and identify proper storage and/or disposal facilities. To date:

- Approximately 167 drums have been removed and treated off-Site at a licensed facility in Texas, awaiting proper disposal.
- Approximately 27 containers of the treated silo waste material are currently over-packed (double-drums) for transportation and staged for removal.

These staged materials currently do not meet waste acceptance criteria for U.S. commercial disposal facilities. EPA and USACE continue to evaluate possible treatment, transportation and disposal options.



Photo above: Example of drums that have been removed off-Site for proper disposal.

EPA Remedial Program

The Remedial Program is working to finalize two comprehensive studies of the Site, called a Remedial Investigation and a Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

These studies are often conducted together, so while data is being gathered to help determine the extent of contamination and establish the necessary cleanup criteria (RI), scientists are also working to identify potential cleanup options and the technical and cost analysis of those options (FS). The RI/FS is being done in three separate pieces, called "operable units."

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

OU-1: On-Site Buildings

The RI for the Site's permanent structures is completed and the FS is currently underway; estimated to be finalized by the end of 2008. The next step will be to develop a Proposed Plan highlighting cleanup options, that will be presented to the community for review and input.

In addition, seven of the on-Site buildings will be demolished because of their poor structural condition and potential safety hazard. After scheduling delays due to contracting issues, EPA entered into an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform this work. The demolition work and safety plans are being prepared and work is estimated to begin in **September 2008**.

EPA will plan to hold a community meeting **this summer** to present work plan specifics and answer any questions or comments residents may have about the demolition work to be done. The date, time and location will be announced in advance in the *Press Enterprise* newspaper.

Photo below: Example of type of equipment that may be used for demolition work.



Photo above: One of the seven on-Site buildings to be demolished.

OU-2: Groundwater

EPA continues to sample shallow groundwater monitoring wells (about 35 - 45 ft. deep), and has installed three new deep groundwater monitoring wells on-Site (one about 100 ft. and two about 200 ft. deep). Contamination has been found in the groundwater directly below the Site.

EPA also monitored nearby residential wells. Some samples showed Site-related contaminants at low levels that did not exceed Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Residents received copies of their well sampling data.

OU-3: On-Site Soils/Sediments/Surface Water

EPA is collecting samples of:

- Surface Soil
- Subsurface Soils
- Sediments (from the lagoon area on-Site and Susquehanna River)

The RI/FS for OU-2 and OU-3 is estimated to be completed around December 2009.





Photos above: EPA contractors conducting on-Site soil sampling.

Who Else is Involved?

EPA is coordinating with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP); the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health service agency; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

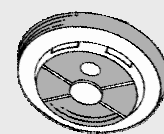
Site Background

The SLC Site is located in South Centre Township, PA, situated between the Susquehanna River and Old Berwick Road.

Although on-Site manufacturing operations closed in December 2007, Safety Light is continuing to perform safety and security measures at the Site, such as fencing, sprinkler system and electronic security system maintenance.

Past activities at the Site include the manufacturing of:

- Self-illuminated watches and instrument dials,
- Smoke detectors,
- Neutron sources,
- Exit signs, and
- Other products containing radioactive materials (such as radium-226, strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium).



For more information on these radioactive materials, visit EPA's website at:

[www.epa.gov/enviro/html/emci/chemref/
complete_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/emci/chemref/complete_index.html)

For More Information

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

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

Or, to review a paper copy, please visit:

The Bloomsburg Area Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

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

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