



CLEANUP PROPOSED FOR THE SHARON STEEL FARRELL WORKS SUPERFUND SITE

MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 2006

EPA PROPOSES CLEANUP PLAN

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a final cleanup plan for the Sharon Steel Farrell Works Superfund Site (SSFW Site). A brief description of the cleanup is included in this newsletter, beginning on page 2. You can also download a copy of the complete proposal online.



EPA will present the Agency's cleanup proposal and accept comments at a public meeting on Wednesday, July 26th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Stey-Nevant Public Library at 1000 Roemer Boulevard in Farrell, Pennsylvania.

At the meeting, EPA will explain the cleanup options

(alternatives) that were evaluated, including EPA's Preferred Alternative for the final cleanup. These alternatives are described in detail in a document called the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP).

Copies of the PRAP will be available at the meeting at the Stey-Nevant Public Library at 1000 Roemer Boulevard in Farrell, Pennsylvania and on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/arweb. (See page 3 for instructions on how to download the PRAP.)

The public has until August 14, 2006 to submit written comments to EPA. EPA will consider all the comments before choosing the final cleanup plan. EPA will respond to significant comments in the final cleanup plan, the Record of Decision (ROD), for the site.

MEETING NOTICE

EPA PRESENTS
CLEANUP PROPOSAL

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 26, 2006

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

STEY-NEVANT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1000 ROEMER BOULEVARD
FARRELL, PENNSYLVANIA

Visit EPA's website for more information
on the Sharon Steel Farrell Works
Superfund Site at:

[http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/
sites/PAD001933175/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD001933175/index.htm).

EPA'S PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

EPA has proposed a cleanup plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan or Proposed Plan, for the Sharon Steel Farrell Works Disposal Area Site (SSFW Site).

The Proposed Plan is based on results of an extensive Remedial Investigation (RI), which characterizes the conditions at the site, and a Feasibility Study (FS), which considers different technologies that could address the site. The plan also takes human and ecological risk assessments into consideration.

What is a Remedial Investigation (RI)?

An RI is an investigation into the effect of human activities on the environment. The RI conducted at the SSFW Site was completed in two phases. Phase 1 occurred between September 1999 and April 2001. Phase 2 was completed in early 2004. Each phase included sampling of:

- Nearby residential wells;
- Surface and sub-surface soils;
- Groundwater including shallow and deep zones;
- Air modeling;

- Surface water and sediment from wetlands and the river, and
- Slag/sludge disposal areas.

In addition, Phase 2 also included sampling of biota (fish, crayfish, amphibians, mammals, and reptiles). Human health and ecological risk assessments were also completed.

What Did the RI find?

The Sharon Steel Farrell Works Site is broken into three major areas (see map on page 4):

- The Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Sludge Disposal Area;
- The Northern Slag Pile Area, and
- The Southern Slag Pile Area.

The Remedial Investigation found that the slag and sludge contains heavy metals, pesticides, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The shallow groundwater aquifer at the SSFW Site is contaminated with metals and PAHs. However, the residential wells in the area draw water from the deeper non-contaminated bedrock

aquifer. Additionally, the majority of the residences in the surrounding area receive their drinking water from the Shenango Valley Water Company.

Groundwater flow from the Site is to the northeast and travels to the Shenango River, away from the residential wells. Data from residential wells indicate the wells have not been impacted by the contaminated groundwater from the Site. Site-related contamination was, however, found in the Shenango River, the wetlands and in animal samples.

EPA's Preferred Cleanup Option

EPA's preferred cleanup option includes the following components:

- Re-grading and contouring the contaminated slag and sludge source;
- Covering this source with a Class-A biosolid cap, which would reduce the mobility of the metals preventing them from sinking into the groundwater and washing into the Shenango River;
- Vegetating the biosolid cap to help reduce dust migration;
- Stabilizing the eroded

Shenango River banks;

- Long-term monitoring of the groundwater and Shenango River;
- Prohibiting the use of groundwater on Site for drinking water, and
- Prohibiting land use that would damage the biosolid cap.

Evaluating the Alternatives

EPA evaluated several cleanup alternatives, all of which will be discussed in detail at the Public Meeting. The alternatives are evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment;
2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs);
3. Long-term effectiveness;
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume through treatment;
5. Short-term effectiveness;
6. Implementability;
7. Cost;
8. State acceptance, and
9. Community acceptance.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Sharon Steel Farrell Works Disposal Area Site (SSFW Site) is an area of about 400 acres once used for waste disposal by Sharon Steel Corporation. The Site is located in Mercer County in western Pennsylvania, within a few hundred feet of the Ohio/Pennsylvania border. Situated to the southwest of the former Sharon Steel Corporation Farrell Works (the SSFW facility), the SSFW Site is located in the flood plain of the Shenango River, which borders the east side of the property. There are several

wetland areas on-site.

Beginning about 1900, Sharon Steel Corporation used the SSFW Site to dispose of sludge and slag from its blast, electric arc, and basic oxygen furnaces. From 1949 to 1981, millions of gallons of spent pickle liquor acid were dumped over the slag. This practice contaminated the groundwater. The SSFW facility closed in 1992. The facility's former disposal area became the SSFW Superfund Site when it was placed on the National Priorities List in July 1998.

DOWNLOAD COPIES OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

To download a copy of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), visit EPA's online Administrative Record (AR). The AR is a collection of documents that form the basis for an agency decision, in this case the selection of the cleanup method for the SSFW Superfund Site.

1. Go to www.epa.gov/arweb.
2. Select "PA" for the state.
3. Select "Sharon Steel—Farrell Works" for the site name.
1. Select "Remedial" for the AR type.
2. Click Search.
3. Click Search Results.
4. Find and select the Proposed Plan.

For More Information on the Sharon Steel Farrell Works Superfund Site

You can view site files:

1. At the **Stey-Nevant Public Library**, 1000 Roemer Boulevard, Farrell, Pennsylvania and/or
1. Online at www.epa.gov/arweb.

You can call EPA with questions:

1. **Rashmi Mathur**, Remedial Project Manager, 215-814-5234, mathur.rashmi@epa.gov, and/or
2. **Carrie Deitzel**, Community Involvement Coordinator, 215-814-5525 or deitzel.carrie@epa.gov.

Or log onto: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/MDD980918387/index.htm>



SEND EPA YOUR COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

JULY 16, 2006 —

AUGUST 14, 2006 (Midnight)

Send your comments in writing to:

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

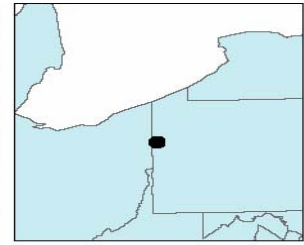
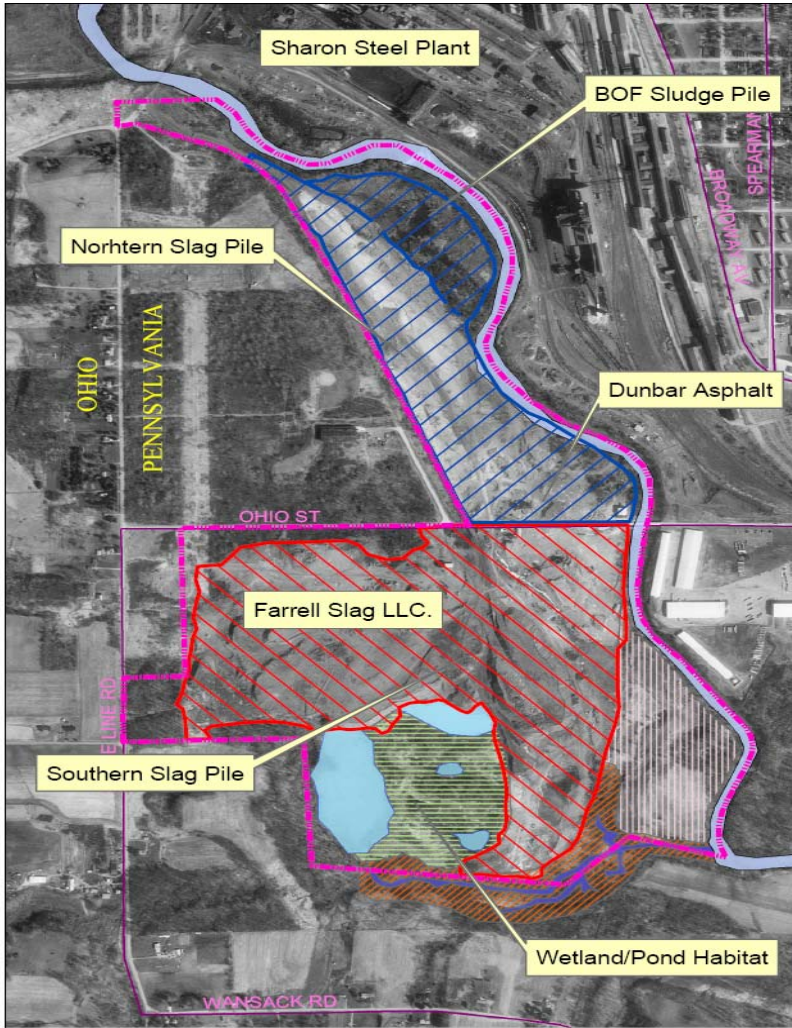


Or via e-mail: deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for the Sharon Steel Farrell Works Superfund Site



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



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Northern Area
- Southern Area
- Tributary Floodplain
- Emergent Wetland
- Ponds
- Shenango River
- Shenango Floodplain
- Tributary

