



Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site

Columbia County, Pennsylvania

— Demolition Work Status Update —



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

December 2014

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 OU-1 and OU-3.

Demolition Work Near Completion (OU-1)

EPA is nearly finished with its radioactive-contaminated materials demolition work on the remaining on-site structures.

Demolition work includes:

- Demolishing the remaining structures;
- Dust suppression during the work activities;
- Packaging the debris for transportation;
- Staging items prior to disposal; and
- Transporting the waste to an off-site facility.

The dismantling and off-site removal of building debris is approximately 70 percent completed. Remaining structures include two buildings, a water tank and a pump shed. All demolition work is estimated to be completed by early spring 2015.

What You May Notice

Demolition workers continue to wear standard personal protection gear such as overalls, booties, breathing masks, hardhats, and/or safety goggles, during demolition activities.

Dust suppression methods involve water trucks and spray hoses to help ensure Site-related contamination remains on-site.

Demolition debris is being removed off-site for proper disposal. Truck traffic is using Old Berwick Road (Route 11) and Interstate-80.

EPA continues to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to monitor air quality during Site activities.

Next Steps = Soil Sampling (OU-3)

Soil sampling work is estimated to begin February 2015. This work includes:

- Evaluating radiation levels at the recently demolished structures “footprints”
- Collecting onsite soil samples, and
- Collecting soil samples and hand-held screening instrument readings at off-site residential properties.

As part of the cleanup plan, once the onsite structures are dismantled and the debris is removed, EPA will test for radioactive-contamination in areas where the structures once stood.

Soil samples will be collected within the Site property, especially in suspected former disposal areas, as well as at a few nearby off-site locations.

Off-site sampling will help confirm that Site-related contamination has not migrated away from the former plant property.

The off-site soil sampling is a precautionary, but important, measure to help ensure that nearby residential properties are not being adversely affected by possible Site-related contamination.

EPA will contact residential property owners nearest the Site to ask permission to collect soil samples from their properties.

EPA will continue to provide updates like this fact sheet mailing to the community as work progresses.

Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located near Bloomsburg, 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).

Initially, EPA unearthed and removed drums and other containers of historical radioactive wastes. Recent work involved removing significant amounts of stored wastes and debris from within the buildings, for proper off-site disposal.

EPA demolished 18 out of 22 on-site structures. This demolition work has been progressing in phases beginning in 2009. This last phase of demolition is estimated to be completed by spring 2015.

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](http://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:

Trish Taylor

US EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
(215) 814—5539 or taylor.trish@epa.gov

Stephanie Wenning

US EPA On-Scene Coordinator (lead for soil sampling)
(215) 814—3186 or wenning.stephanie@epa.gov

Ann DiDonato

US EPA On-Scene Coordinator (lead for demolition work)
(215) 814—3311 or didonato.ann@epa.gov

Address Label

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3
Attn: Trish Taylor
1650 Arch Street (3HS52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

