



Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site

Columbia County, Pennsylvania

— Residential Handout—



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

November 2015

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. This residential handout provides information about the **Mobile Environmental Radiation Laboratory (MERL)** that will be on Site this month.

Demolition Work Completion

EPA completed the OU-1 demolition work for the remaining Safety Light Corp. Site structures. The demolition work included: 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. All demolition debris was removed from the Site as of November 6, 2015.

Next Steps

EPA collected over 200 soil samples from on-site areas, including the “footprints” of where the structures once stood, and the lagoons/dump areas that remain onsite.

The samples are being tested for radioactive materials. To help analyze soil samples, EPA will be using the Mobile Environmental Radiation Laboratory (MERL). See photo below. Using the MERL, as well as regular laboratory facilities, will help analyze a lot of soil samples quickly and less expensively than using regular labs only. The onsite MERL will also provide data that will help address future cleanup efforts for the OU-3 contaminated soils.

What You May Notice

- The MERL is a large vehicle, similar in size to a semi tractor trailer.
- The MERL is often used as an emergency response vehicle but can also be used for field work when there are a large number of samples to be tested, specifically screening for radioactive contamination.
- It will be at the Safety Light Corp. Site for about two weeks in mid-November.
- There may be some noise from the generator during operating hours, however it should not be at a level that would be disruptive to the neighborhood.



The MERL as it looks when it's unhooked from the tractor trailer. ▼



Photo of the MERL interior. ▼



Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located near Bloomsburg, PA, along Old Berwick Road. It is about 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).

The cleanup is divided into 3 separate Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addresses onsite buildings and debris; OU-2 addresses onsite groundwater and OU-3 addresses onsite soils, surface water and sediment.

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 22 on-site structures and is currently testing the soils from the “footprints” of the former structures and on the lagoons/dumps for Site-related contamination.

EPA continues to coordinate with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) during cleanup activities.

For More Information

More information is available on-line at EPA's Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site webpage at:
www.epa.gov/superfund/safetylight.

Site-related documents are also available in the Administrative Record database at:
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
(215) 814—3186 or wenning.stephanie@epa.gov

Ann DiDonato

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