

SHAFFER EQUIPMENT/ARBUCKLE CREEK AREA SUPERFUND SITE

COMMUNITY UPDATE | May 2019



Site Added to Superfund National Priorities List

In May 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area Site, located in Minden, West Virginia, to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the list of hazardous waste sites in the United States eligible for remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program. EPA proposed the Site to the NPL on September 13, 2018. The designation was finalized following EPA's review of comments received during the 60-day public comment period.

Next Steps

Since the Site was proposed to the NPL, EPA has been working proactively, along with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), reviewing data already collected, engaging with the community and local officials, and developing a comprehensive plan for the remedial investigation and future activities at the Site.

The remedial investigation will further define the nature and extent of contamination and include detailed human health and ecological risk assessments. EPA intends to conduct additional environmental sampling, including groundwater and soil at multiple depths, for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other compounds. The remedial investigation fieldwork is expected to commence in Summer 2019. EPA is also continuing to develop a Community Involvement Plan for the Site. The Community Involvement Plan describes the site-specific strategy for informing and engaging community members in the Superfund process. The first round of community interviews to develop the plan was conducted in November 2018 and additional interviews will be conducted this Spring.

Site Background

The Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area Site encompasses Shaffer Equipment Company property, Arbuckle Creek contaminated sediments, and other areas where contamination may be located. The specific boundaries of the Site will be further defined during the remedial investigation. Site soils and sediment were historically contaminated with PCBs, which were used by the Shaffer Equipment Company from 1970 to 1984 to manufacture electrical substations for the local coal mining industry.

Questions? Contact Us:

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Visit www.epa.gov/superfund/shaffer for more information!

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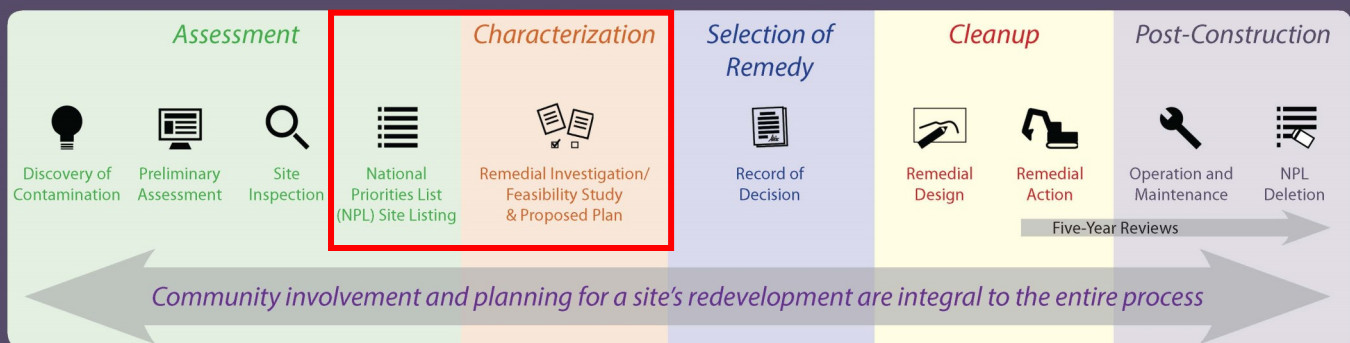
Site Background (continued)

The company stored nonessential, damaged, or outdated transformers and capacitors on the Site property. Leaks from the equipment, possible spills, and dumping practices contributed to PCB contamination in on-Site soils and washed into nearby Arbuckle Creek, where elevated PCB levels have been found over one mile downstream. Low levels of contamination have also been observed in Arbuckle Creek within the boundary of the New River Gorge National River property. New River is home to sensitive environments and is also used for recreation and fishing.

EPA, in coordination with WVDEP, took actions through EPA's removal authorities in 1985-1987, 1991-1992, and 2001-2002 to address the immediate risks to PCB exposures associated with the Shaffer Equipment Company. At the request of the community, EPA's Removal program collected soil and sediment samples in June and December 2017 to determine if there was PCB contamination at residents' properties and if there was any residual PCB contamination at the Shaffer Equipment property. Results from the 2017 sampling do not indicate any immediate threat to human health, but do indicate the need for additional evaluation.

In March and June of 2018, EPA's Site Assessment program performed an Expanded Site Inspection to collect data to support the development of a Hazard Ranking System package to determine whether the site should be placed on the NPL. The Site was proposed to the NPL in September 2018 and added to the NPL in May 2019.

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS



For more information:

Visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cleanup-process>

Visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

MINDEN, WEST VIRGINIA