



## Sharon Steel Corp.

Mercer County, Pa.

### Site Description

The Sharon Steel Corporation Farrell Works Disposal Area site is located in Mercer County, Pa., very close to the Ohio border. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 1983. The site is southwest of the former Sharon Steel Corporation Farrell Works Facility (the facility is not part of the site) and is bordered on the east by the Shenango River. From 1900-81, the Sharon Steel Corporation used the site as a dumping ground for various wastes produced in the course of making steel. Slags (solids) and spent pickle liquor acid (liquids) were the main wastes. Sharon Steel believed the two wastes would chemically neutralize each other, providing for safe disposal, but, in fact, soil, sediment and groundwater contamination resulted. The site is located in the flood plain of the Shenango River; there are several wetland areas on site.

### Current Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- From 1999-2001, EPA conducted a remedial investigation to determine areas of soil, air and groundwater contamination.
- A second investigation was performed from 2002 to 2003 to fill data gaps from the first investigation, and added a wetland assessment, ecological characterization, biota assessment, and a sediment and hydro-geological assessment in the deeper groundwater aquifer.
- Operable Unit (OU) 1 consists of a total of 292 acres, which has been divided into two sections: OU1 North, consisting of 61 acres North of Ohio Street and OU1 South consisting of 231 acres South of Ohio Street.
- The final cleanup plan for OU1 was selected in a 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) and includes construction of a biosolid vegetative cap, institutional controls, and long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water in the Shenango River.
- The floodplain on the site will be addressed as part of the OU1 remedy including the floodplain adjacent to OU2. Multiple pilot studies of the bio-solid technology were conducted and showed favorable results for the OU1 remedy.
- The OU1 remedial design was completed in February 2012. The construction of the remedy is planned in two phases with Phase 1 to be the northern portion of OU1 and Phase 2 to be the southern portion of OU1.
- The EPA issued the OU2 proposed plan for an asphalt cap in September 2012. The OU2 ROD is planned for 2013.
- Although funding and completion of this project will result in environmental progress, it will not eliminate all unacceptable human exposure pathways. Additional work will be needed to do so.

### Unfunded Action

Fiscal Year 2012 work that was not funded involved the construction of the biosolid-enhanced cap with vegetative cover, monitoring and institutional controls.

### Current Funding Status

To date, EPA has not spent any funds for response construction work at the site.

*For more information on this site, please read [the Sharon Steel site information](#) on the Region 3 Superfund web site.*