



O'Connor Superfund Site

Augusta, Maine

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



MAINTAINING AND MONITORING SUPERFUND

SITES: After a Superfund Site or portion of a Superfund Site has been cleaned up, EPA continues to monitor the site to ensure the cleanup is operating effectively over time. Five-Year Reviews provide an opportunity to fully evaluate the implementation and performance of a cleanup and determine whether it remains protective of human health and the environment.

INTRODUCTION:

While the Site was delisted in 2014 from the NPL, inspections still occur. The fourth Five-Year Review for the Site was completed on September 26, 2017 finding the Site protective of human health and the environment.

BACKGROUND

The 23-acre O'Connor Site(Site) is located in Augusta, Maine. In the 1950s, the O'Connor Company began operating a salvage and electrical transformer recycling business at the Site. Operations included stripping and recycling transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-laden oil. Facility operations contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals. The long-term remedy for the Site included excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils and sediments, with backfilling of dug-up areas, fencing, wetlands restoration, sediment and biota sampling, and groundwater cleanup. In 1996 and 1997, approximately 19,000

tons of contaminated soil and sediment were excavated and transported off-site to licensed hazardous or special waste landfills. Sixty-four tons of building debris was decontaminated, demolished and disposed of off-site. Finally, 71,220 gallons of contaminated water were transported to off-site disposal and treatment facilities. The Site was restored by backfilling clean fill from off-site sources. Site fencing was removed in November 1997. Additionally, wetlands were established to replace those lost during the cleanup. Following cleanup, operation and maintenance activities and monitoring continued. In 2014 a revised long-term monitoring plan was approved and the Site was delisted from the National Priority

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PROGRESS SINCE LAST REVIEW

The 2012 FYR did not identify any issues, however it recommended reevaluating the groundwater monitoring program for optimization opportunity and including the complete laboratory report in the monitoring reports preceding the FYR. The groundwater monitoring program was revised and approved and the laboratory reports were included in the June 16, 2017 soil monitoring report and the August 2, 2017 groundwater monitoring report.

Semi-annual Site inspections, the soil monitoring performed every five years indicate the clean soil cap remains stable and intact, controlling exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risk, and groundwater monitoring continues to demonstrate performance standards have been met outside the Technical Impracticability Zone since Spring 2002 for VOCs and Spring 2006 for PCBs. . Additionally, there have been no known violations of the terms of the institutional controls that have been placed on the Site: no use of the groundwater; no activity

that has disrupted remedial or monitoring measures; and the Site is maintained in a condition adequate to ensure the continued compliance with all applicable standards.

The quarterly passive oil recovery and groundwater monitoring confirm the presence of residual oil in a limited area of the Technical Impracticability Zone. The monitoring wells remain secured and functional.

Annual sampling of sediments performed from 1996 through 2005 resulted in over 95% of the samples being below the 5 parts per million (ppm) trigger level with the annual mean PCB concentration varying between 0.38 and 1.72 ppm. Results from the two biota sampling events were below the threshold level of 2 ppm for all samples. Site inspections have documented functioning habitat in both the uplands and wetlands. Institutional controls are covering the entire Site.

FACT

The fourth Five-Year Review for the Site was completed on September 26, 2017 finding the Site protective of human health and the environment.