



# Precision Plating Corp. Superfund Site Vernon, CT

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



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by locating, investigating, and cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The Precision Plating Superfund Site (the “Site”) source area is located at the Hillside Industrial Park, 1050 Hartford Turnpike (Route 30) in Vernon, Connecticut. Since 1969, the Precision Plating Corporation has conducted chrome plating operations within the 3-acre industrial park. Past releases have contaminated both the soil and groundwater. The primary Site-related contaminants of concern are chromium and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); both are commonly associated with electroplating facilities.

Environmental concerns at the Site began circa 1975 when chromium contamination was detected in the drinking water supply well serving the Hillside Industrial Park. The well was removed from service and releases from the Precision Plating facility, primarily related to improper waste storage, wastewater discharges, and damage to waste storage containers, were determined to be the principal contaminant sources. In response, contaminated soil was removed and the industrial park and the High Manor community were connected to the public water supply. Due to the presence of chromium in drinking water, EPA completed a Time-Critical Removal Action in 2018; connecting five additional properties to the public water supply.

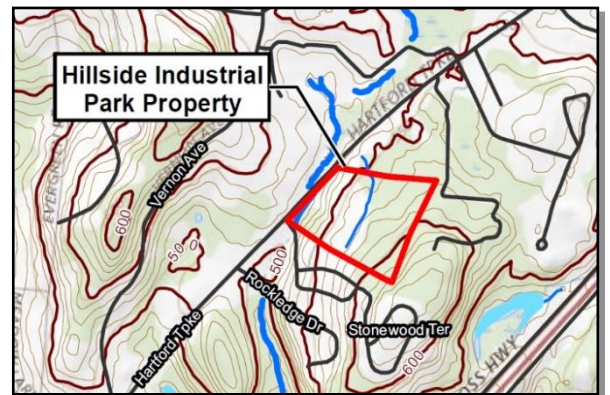


Figure 1 - Hillside Industrial Park Location Map

EPA placed this site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in October 1989 and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) assumed responsibility for activities at the Site. In 2011, with the concurrence of CT DEEP, EPA resumed its role as the lead agency and initiated a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in May 2012. EPA and CT DEEP continue to work collaboratively to investigate and cleanup the Site.

## STATUS UPDATE

RI activities were conducted between 2012 and 2019 to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination, migration pathways, and potential risks to human health and the environment. A draft RI Report, including human health and ecological risk assessments, was developed in October 2019. Supplemental field activities were completed in 2021 to address data gaps.

Due to complex site conditions (e.g., fractured bedrock geology) and the presence of emerging contaminants such as PFAS, the Site was split into two distinct areas or Operable Units (OUs) in December 2022. OU-1 (Source Area) includes soil and overburden groundwater centered at the Hillside Industrial Park and OU-2 (Downgradient Groundwater Plume) includes bedrock groundwater. Breaking the Site into manageable pieces supports the selection of a cleanup remedy to improve OU-1 conditions while allowing for additional studies to address areas of uncertainty within OU-2.

## NEXT STEPS

**OU-1:** Following the division of the Site into two OUs, EPA has focused on concluding investigations to further evaluate the nature and extent of source area contamination and migration pathways, leading to the development of a Feasibility Study (FS). The FS serves to develop and evaluate a range of remedial action options for cleaning up the Site. The FS will be followed by a Proposed Plan, identifying EPA's preferred cleanup approach for OU-1, that will be released for public comment. A cleanup decision for OU-1 is anticipated in 2026.

**OU-2:** EPA is continuing the RI for OU-2. Extensive investigation activities including soil sampling, overburden and bedrock monitoring well installation, hydraulic conductivity testing, geophysical surveys, aquifer pumping tests, and groundwater sampling are planned. Initially focused on the source area (OU-1), investigation activities are anticipated to commence in early 2025 and expand into OU-2 later in the year.



Figure 2 - Precision Plating Facility

## VALUING INPUT

EPA collaborates with state and federal agencies, including the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), as well as other stakeholders including the Town of Vernon. EPA welcomes community engagement and issued a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) in January 2023 (<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/100023749>). EPA will continue to keep the community and other interested parties apprised of Site activities through facts sheets, emails and physical mailings, and informational meetings. For more information visit EPA's site profile page at [www.epa.gov/superfund/precision](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/precision). Internet access and printers are available at the Rockville Public Library (52 Union Street, Vernon, CT 06066).

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Site's email list, please reach out to EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), Darriel Swatts.

### KEY CONTACTS:

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