



EPA Starts Field Activities at New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site Operable Unit 3

Community Update

May 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Community Involvement

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's Superfund program. If you have any questions regarding cleanup activities at the site, please contact:

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Superfund:

For information on the Superfund process, please visit EPA's Website at: www.epa.gov/superfund. The website contains information on the various tools and resources available to communities.

Regional Public Liaison:

Should you have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, please call 888-283-7626.

Information Repository:

Westbury Public Library
445 Jefferson Street
Westbury, New York

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
Superfund Records Center
290 Broadway – 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007
212-637-4308
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
(appointment required)

INVESTIGATION FIELD WORK BEGINS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is starting field activities at a portion of the New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund site. Field activities, including drilling to investigate groundwater contamination, are set to begin in the next couple of weeks in the Salisbury area. Drilling will be conducted on public roads and in publicly accessible areas. Work is expected to be conducted between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and will be coordinated with the County of Nassau and the Town of Hempstead to minimize impact to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Some of the work may be performed during weekends to expedite the schedule and minimize impact to residences. It is anticipated that drilling activities at each location will take approximately four to six weeks. **During this period, moderate noise in the immediate vicinity is expected.**

The first phase of work will occur within the area north and east of Salisbury Park Drive, from Carmen Avenue to the east, and south of Old Country Road. It is anticipated that work associated with Phase 2 will occur south of Stewart Avenue. Equipment used by EPA's contractors will include a drilling rig, support vehicles and hand-held devices.

SITE OVERVIEW

The purpose of this update is to provide the community with information about upcoming field activities associated with the EPA's investigation of the nature and extent of groundwater contamination in an area of the site identified as Operable Unit 3 (OU3). Cleanup of a site can be divided into a number of operable units (OUs). EPA has already identified multiple OUs for this site and anticipates additional operable units will be identified. OU1 is located downgradient of the New Cassel Industrial Area. OU3, the subject of this investigation, is the area further downgradient (south) of OU1 (refer to the figure on the next page). The first step in the long-term cleanup of a site under the federal Superfund program is referred to as a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS). The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess the risks that the contamination may pose to human health and the environment, and evaluate potential cleanup alternatives.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the OU3 investigation is to horizontally and vertically delineate the nature and extent of groundwater contamination in the underlying aquifers. Based on the limited existing groundwater data within the area, a phased approach will be required to improve the understanding of groundwater contamination in OU3. Under this approach, three vertical profile borings, which are investigative borings drilled for collection of samples at various depths, will initially be drilled to a maximum depth of 600 feet below grade surface as part of Phase 1. The purpose of the borings is to document hydrogeological conditions and collect groundwater samples from discrete aquifer intervals to assess the vertical extent of volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination. Information from the borings will be used to target the installation of one or two (shallow or deep) permanent monitoring wells at each location. Based on the findings from this initial phase, three additional borings will be targeted for installation as part of Phase 2. Following the permanent groundwater well installation, groundwater samples will be collected from the newly installed monitoring wells for VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and Target Analyte List metals analysis. Results of the analyses will assist in the characterization (i.e., nature and extent) of the impacted groundwater and will be used for planning the next steps of the investigation.

SITE HISTORY

The site comprises a widespread area of groundwater contamination within the Towns of North Hempstead, Hempstead, and Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York. The site is an estimated 6.5 square miles, characterized by VOC-contaminated groundwater that has impacted several water supply wells, including four Town of Hempstead wells (Bowling Green 1 and 2, Roosevelt Field 10, and Levittown 2A), six Hicksville water supply wells (4-2, 5-2, 5-3, 8-1, 8-3, and 9-3), and the Village of Westbury water supply well (11).



Map: New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site

To date, EPA has designated three OUs for the site. OU1 is a discrete portion of contaminated groundwater downgradient of the New Cassel area. In 2013, EPA issued a cleanup plan for OU1 which called for the implementation of a combination of technologies to clean up the contaminated groundwater. EPA is currently in negotiations with the potentially responsible parties for the performance of pre-design activities for the selected remedy.

OU2 addresses groundwater at and emanating from the Sylvania Corning Plant/former Sylvania Electric Products Facility and the General Instruments property located in Hicksville, NY. EPA is overseeing the OU2 investigation which is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program.

OU3 addresses the groundwater contamination further downgradient (south) of OU1. Following the OU3 investigation, a RI report will be prepared to document the investigation activities and results. A separate FS report will also be prepared to present cleanup alternatives that may be implemented to address the impacted groundwater. Upon completion of the RI/FS, EPA will issue a plan for public comment which selects our preferred method of cleanup.