



EPA to Begin Next Phase of Cleanup at Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund Site in Holley, Orleans County, New York

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION – JULY 11, 2017

Community Update

June 2017

Keeping You Informed

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the site, please contact: Michael Basile, Community Involvement Coordinator, 186 Exchange Street, Buffalo, NY 14204; telephone: (716) 551-4410 or email: basile.michael@epa.gov.

Questions about the remediation project may be directed to John DiMartino, Remedial Project Manager, at (212) 637-4270 or by email at: dimartino.john@epa.gov.

General information on the Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund Site may be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diazchemical/> or at the site repository: Community Free Library, 86 Public Square, Holley, New York 14470; 585-638-6987.

Public Availability Session

EPA and the project team will be available to answer any questions the community may have on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the American Legion, 5 Wright Street, Holley, NY 14470 (located under the US Post Office in Holley).

UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing you with this community update to keep you informed about its activities related to the Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund Site, located in the village of Holley, Orleans County, New York. The next phase of the cleanup will involve in-situ thermal treatment (ISTT) of contaminated soils and groundwater in on-site source areas, continued operation of vapor mitigation systems in three nearby residential properties and monitoring of the groundwater outside the source areas.

In preparation for this next phase, the EPA demolished all buildings on-site (except for one warehouse) in 2015. In addition, approximately 1,200 feet of a 12-inch waterline was relocated to Jackson Street and South Main Street in 2016.

NEXT PHASE OF CLEANUP TO START

The ISTT system consists of a network of wells that deliver heat into discrete subsurface unsaturated and saturated areas of soil. Co-located with the heater wells is a system of extraction wells and temperature/pressure monitoring points. The treatment area will be covered with an insulated cap to ensure a tight vapor seal which aids in heating and vapor recovery, and prevents both heat losses to the atmosphere and precipitation infiltration.

The application of heat to the subsurface results in the conversion of organic chemicals into the vapor or gas phase, where they are removed under vacuum by the extraction wells. The extracted vapors and groundwater are then conveyed through a piping network to be treated separately by granular activated carbon before being vented to the atmosphere or discharged to the stormwater sewer, respectively. All applicable New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) discharge permits will be

met.

The cleanup work will be performed in two phases. The first phase will target a small area (approximately 10%) of the site requiring treatment with the objective of establishing a basis of design for full-scale treatment in phase two.

The EPA contractor will mobilize to the site in mid July 2017 and start site preparation activities, including abandoning old monitoring wells and installing new ones, baseline soil/groundwater sampling, and establishing site support facilities (utility hook-up, work trailer, fencing). It is anticipated that the construction of the ISTT system will start in early August 2017, with actual operation to begin in December and continue until summer 2018.

Once it is determined that the treatment objectives have been achieved, the heaters will be turned off. However, extraction and treatment will continue during this cool-down period. Following this, the wellfield, all process equipment, and all interconnecting piping and hardware will be decommissioned. All of the wells will be shut down and capped/sealed as appropriate (but not abandoned) in preparation for the full-scale treatment. The site will then be temporarily restored.

Following the completion of the first phase, the design for the second phase will be prepared. The implementation of the next phase will follow the approval of the design of phase two.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The site is about 25 miles west of Rochester and includes the five-acre Diaz Chemical Corporation facility which is located at 40 Jackson Street, Village of Holley, Orleans County, New York and parts of the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Diaz Chemical was a manufacturer of specialty organic chemicals for the agricultural, pharmaceutical, photographic, color and dye, and personal care products industries. The facility had a long history of chemical releases into the environment from 1975 to 2002.

An accidental air release occurred in January 2002, when a reactor vessel in a process building overheated, causing its safety valve to rupture and release approximately 75 gallons of a chemical mixture through a roof stack vent. The release consisted primarily of a mixture of steam, toluene and 2-chloro-6-fluorophenol, as well as related phenolic compounds. The mixture landed on properties in the residential neighborhood immediately adjacent to the facility and was visible as red colored droplets. As a result of the release, several residents voluntarily relocated to area hotels with assistance from Diaz Chemical.

In May 2002, when Diaz Chemical sought to discontinue the relocation efforts, the EPA, utilizing its authority, continued the funding of the temporary relocations. Subsequently, the NYSDEC and the EPA performed sampling of indoor air, soil, interior surfaces and household items in the affected neighborhood. A qualitative review of the data collected as part of this effort resulted in the conclusion that there were no immediate or short term threats to human health. Therefore, no further actions related to the residential properties under the EPA's removal authority were deemed necessary.

In June 2003, Diaz Chemical filed for bankruptcy and abandoned the Diaz Chemical facility, leaving behind large volumes of chemicals in drums and tanks. From 2003-2007, the EPA, under its removal authority, removed all hazardous substances and dismantled the Diaz Chemical production buildings. On July 22, 2004, the site was placed on the EPA's National Priorities List.

On March 29, 2005, the EPA issued a "Record of Decision," which called for property acquisition and permanent relocation of eight owner-occupant and two individual tenant families who had remained in temporary quarters since January 2002. The eight homes that were acquired by the EPA were secured and maintained.

The EPA performed a comprehensive study of the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess potential risks to human health and the environment and develop, screen and evaluate alternative treatment technologies.

On September 26, 2012, the EPA selected a cleanup plan for the site which included ISTT of the contaminated soil and groundwater located at the Diaz Chemical property and natural processes to address the groundwater contamination down-gradient of the source areas. The cleanup plan also included building demolition to obtain access to contaminated soils on-site.

The study determined that site-related contamination does not exist in the surrounding residential area and, therefore, a cleanup for the neighborhood, including the eight EPA-owned residential properties, is not necessary. Accordingly, the EPA determined that the sale or transfer of the eight EPA-owned properties was consistent with the final cleanup and negotiated an agreement with the Village of Holley and the Village of Holley Development Corporation (VHDC) whereby the EPA will transfer the eight properties to the VHDC. It is anticipated that the VHDC will market the houses this summer.