## FOURTH FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT FOR ROEBLING STEEL SUPERFUND SITE BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



#### Prepared by

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 New York, New York

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ARAR	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement
BLL	Blood Lead Level
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FFS	Focused Feasibility Study
FYR	Five-Year Review
ICs	Institutional Controls
mg/kg	Milligram per kilogram
µg/dL	Microgram per deciliter
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NPL	National Priorities List
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OU	Operable Unit
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
RA	Remedial Action
RAO	Remedial Action Objectives
RD	Remedial Design
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
TBC	To Be Considered
TCE	Trichloroethylene
UU/UE	Unlimited Use and Unrestricted Exposure

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of a five-year review (FYR) is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy in order to determine if the remedy is and will continue to be protective of human health and the environment. The methods, findings, and conclusions of reviews are documented in FYR reports such as this one. In addition, FYR reports identify issues found during the review, if any, and document recommendations to address them.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing this five-year review pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 121, consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR Section 300.430 (f)(4)(ii)) and considering EPA policy.

This is the fourth FYR for the Roebling Steel Superfund Site (site). The triggering action for this statutory review is the completion date of the previous FYR. The FYR has been prepared due to the fact that hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure (UU/UE).

The site consists of five operable units (OUs), some of which are addressed in this FYR. The remedies for OU1 and OU2 have been completed and will not be addressed in this FYR. The remedies for OU3, OU4 and OU5 are not yet fully implemented or are long-term operation and maintenance. These OUs are the subject of this FYR.

- Operable Unit 1 (OU1), addressed the removal of drums, transformers, tanks, baghouse dust, chemical piles, tires, and contaminated park soil.
- Operable Unit 2 (OU2) addressed contaminated soil in another park.
- Operable Unit 3 (OU3) includes the cleanup of the slag area by installing a soil cap that will support a stormwater management system and shoreline stabilization.
- Operable Unit 4 (OU4) includes removal and disposal of underground storage tanks, aboveground tanks, pits, sumps, underground piping, process dust, friable asbestos abatement, decontamination and demolition of buildings, and the restoration of the historic Main Gate House.
- Operable Unit 5 (OU5) includes the remediation of site-wide soils, river and creek sediments, and groundwater.

The Roebling Steel Superfund Site FYR was led by Tamara Rossi, EPA Region 2 RPM. Participants included: Jeff Josephson (EPA Section Chief), Chloe Metz (EPA Technical Support Section), Mindy Pensak (EPA Ecological Risk Assessor), Sharissa Singh, (EPA hydrogeologist), Abbey States (EPA Human Health Risk Assessor) and Patricia Seppi (EPA Community Involvement Coordinator). The review began on 5/30/2018.

#### Site Background

The site is a 200-acre inactive steel manufacturing facility that was used from 1906 until 1982, primarily for the production of steel products. The site is located in Florence Township, Burlington County, New Jersey and is bordered by the residential areas of the Village of Roebling on the west and southwest, and the Delaware River and Crafts Creek on the north and east, respectively (Figure 1). A New Jersey transit station and a shared-use railroad track (light rail and freight) are adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the site. The site topography is essentially flat, except for a hill on the southern boundary of the slag disposal area that rises to Riverside Avenue and drops down a steep slope down to the banks of the Delaware River. The site is situated between 15 and 35 feet above mean sea level, in the Delaware River drainage basin, and is mostly above the 100-year flood plain.

There were approximately 70 buildings on-site connected by paved and unpaved access roads and railroad tracks throughout the facility. Steel production resulted in the generation of significant quantities of waste materials in both liquid and solid forms. The former facility contributed substantial tax revenues to Florence Township. The site is currently inactive except for portions of the property that have been remediated and redeveloped. Projected future land use of the site includes mixed commercial and recreational uses. In 2001, Florence Township, the owner of the property, through the Burlington County Land Use Planning Office, completed a reuse conceptual plan for redevelopment of the property.

SITE IDENTIFICATION			
Site Name: Roebling Ste	Site Name: Roebling Steel		
<b>EPA ID:</b> NJD07373225	7		
Region: 2	State: NJ	City/County: Florence Township/Burlington County	
	S	ITE STATUS	
NPL Status: Final			
Multiple OUs? YesHas the site achieved construction completion? No		e site achieved construction completion?	
REVIEW STATUS			
Lead agency: EPA [If "Other Federal Agency", enter Agency name]:			
Author name (Federal or State Project Manager): Tamara Rossi			
Author affiliation: EPA Region 2			

### FIVE-YEAR REVIEW SUMMARY FORM

**Review period:** 2/7/2014 - 2/7/2019

**Date of site inspection:** 12/3/2018

Type of review: Statutory

**Review number:** 4

**Triggering action date:** 2/7/2014

Due date (five years after triggering action date): 2/7/2019

## **II. RESPONSE ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **Basis for Taking Action**

EPA conducted field investigations in multiple phases from 1985 to 1998. The purpose of these investigations was to determine the nature and extent of contamination of the entire site. The investigation results were finalized in the reports listed below and defined the following OUs:

- OU1 Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) was completed in January 1990.
- OU2/OU3 FFS was completed in June 1991.
- OU4 FFS was completed in July 1996.
- OU3/OU5 RI was completed in May 2002.
- OU3/OU5 FS was completed in July 2002.

On-site buildings contained liquid and solid wastes, process dust and exposed asbestos. Site-wide surface and subsurface soils were contaminated with inorganics (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and lead). River and creek sediments were contaminated with inorganics (arsenic, chromium, copper, iron, lead, and nickel) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Groundwater data showed sporadic concentrations of inorganics (arsenic, lead and zinc) which exceeded drinking water standards in a small number of wells.

Based upon the investigation results, baseline risk assessments were conducted to estimate the risks associated with current and future site conditions. The baseline risk assessment estimates the human health and ecological risk which could result from the contamination at the site in the absence of any actions to control or mitigate the contamination under current and future land uses. A qualitative assessment was performed for lead in addition to a quantitative risk assessment. The Human Health Risk Assessments found elevated risk for trespassers from dermal contact and inhalation exposures to drums, process dusts, tanks and building materials, as well as ingestion of contaminated soil by recreational children. These risks lead to the remediation of site drums, tanks and debris, and soils in the nearby recreational parks. There was also unacceptable risk to current off-site and future off-site child residents, future on-site adult residents, and future construction workers; these risks were primarily due to dermal contact and

ingestion of manganese, antimony, and arsenic in soils, ingestion of trichloroethylene (TCE) and arsenic in groundwater, and ingestion of mercury and copper from fish in Crafts Creek. Lead was also found to contribute to unacceptable health risks, with surface soil concentrations averaging 7,161 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), and subsurface concentrations averaging 1,838 mg/kg.

The ecological risk assessment evaluated the contaminants associated with the site in conjunction with the site-specific biological species/habitat information. The primary areas of concern were Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel, which support a diverse aquatic and wetlands community. Results of the ecological risk assessment determined that arsenic, chromium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel and PAHs in the sediments are impacting or pose risks to ecological receptors in these environments.

#### **Response Actions**

The remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA) was conducted in conformance with the RODs for the various OUs and implemented in a phased approach (Figure 2). EPA has completed major removal and remedial actions at the site, thereby significantly reducing the potential for exposure to hazardous materials on or off the site.

#### Initial Response

The site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1982 and finalized on the NPL in September 1983. In May 1985, EPA began a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to characterize the nature and extent of the contamination present at the site. Interim measures were taken to maintain control of the site through fencing and warning signs, site security, and early response actions to stabilize the site. In December 1985, the State of New Jersey removed picric acid and other explosive chemicals from one of the on-site laboratories. EPA performed a removal action between October 1987 and November 1988, that included the removal of lab pack containers and drums containing corrosive and toxic materials, acid tanks, and compressed gas cylinders.

### <u>OU1</u>

The first ROD (OU1 ROD) for the site was signed in March 1990 and was the first of several anticipated remedial actions that continued the removal or remediation of contaminated source areas. The major components of the selected remedy for OU1 included the removal and off-site treatment and disposal of remaining drums, transformers containing oil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), the contents of exterior abandoned tanks, a baghouse dust pile, chemical piles, tire piles, and contaminated soil at the Northwest Park. Upon completion, the OU1 remedy would not require a five-year review.

### OU2 and OU3

A second ROD was signed in September 1991. The remedial action objectives (RAOs) of the OU2 and OU3 ROD are:

- Reduce exposure risks through incidental ingestion, inhalation and dermal contact with the slag material and contaminated park soil.
- Minimize the potential migration of contaminants into the air, groundwater and surface water.

The major components of the selected remedy included the Southeast Park (OU2) and Slag Area (OU3). The selected remedy for OU2 included excavation of approximately 160 cubic yards of contaminated soil; off-site disposal of the contaminated soil; and backfilling and revegetation of the excavated area. Upon completion, the OU2 remedy would not require a five-year review. The selected remedy for OU3 included treatment of slag material; capping and vegetation of the 34-acre Slag Area; shoreline stabilization and stormwater management system; and long-term monitoring and institutional controls (ICs) to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy. The 1991 remedy for the OU3 Slag Area was later amended in the September 2003 ROD.

## <u>OU4</u>

A third ROD was signed in September 1996, to address the remediation of all the buildings at the site, remediation and restoration of the Main Gate House, and other historic preservation mitigation measures (OU4). The RAOs of the OU4 ROD are:

- Prevent human exposure (through ingestion, inhalation, and/or dermal contact) to contaminants in dusts and on building surfaces, where chemical concentrations exceed riskbased remediation goals.
- Removal of contamination sources to prevent further migration of contaminants to other media including soil and/or sediments, surface water and/or ground water via precipitation run-off and/or percolation. This includes contaminated buildings (and contents from the tanks, pits, sumps, and underground piping) that are in danger of deterioration and collapse, thereby posing a threat of migration of contaminants into the environment.
- Ensure that remedial actions are undertaken with due regard for the historic and cultural resource protections that apply under federal and State historic preservation laws and regulations.

The major components of the selected remedy for OU4 include the following:

- Primary (gross) decontamination, demolition, and on-site management of selected demolition debris for contaminated buildings that are structurally unsound (Group A Buildings), and decontamination of contaminated buildings that are structurally sound (Group B Buildings).
- Removal and off-site disposal of contaminated process dust, and liquid and solid wastes from the equipment, aboveground tanks, pits, and sumps. Removal and decontamination of equipment, tanks, and scrap metal prior to recycling.

- Abatement of friable asbestos in all buildings.
- Closure of contaminated underground storage tanks and drainage of underground piping systems.
- Historic preservation mitigation measures for the buildings, machinery, and curation of archives.
- Implementation of ICs to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy, such as deed restrictions to limit future uses of the buildings that remain.

### OU3 Amended Remedy and OU5

A fourth ROD was signed in September 2003, to address remediation of site-wide soil, sediments in the Delaware River and Crafts Creek, and groundwater and amend the 1991 OU3 remedy. The RAOs for the ROD are:

### Soils:

- Prevent human exposure to contaminated site-wide soils and slag material based on current and anticipated future uses.
- Reduce risk to ecological receptors from exposure to contaminated soils and slag material to acceptable levels.
- Minimize contaminant migration from the soils and slag material to the groundwater and surface waters to levels that ensure the beneficial reuse of these resources.
- Comply with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) and To-Be-Considered (TBCs) guidelines consistent with current and anticipated future use, or request waivers.

#### Sediments:

- Reduce risk to ecological receptors from exposure to contaminated sediments to acceptable levels.
- Comply with ARARs and TBCs consistent with current and anticipated future use, or request waivers.

#### Groundwater:

• Restore the groundwater to drinking water standards within a reasonable time frame and reduce further contamination of groundwater.

 While the RAO was to restore the aquifer to drinking water quality, EPA Region 2 has determined that it is technically impracticable to restore the groundwater to meet ARARs and invoked a technical impracticability waiver for this site.

The major components of the selected remedy for OU5, which took into consideration the amendment of the OU3 remedy, included:

#### Soils:

- Capping of site-wide contaminated soil, including the Slag Area. Two distinct capping options are considered based on the physical characteristics of different portions of the site, and the current and potential future uses of each portion, Option (a) soil/asphalt, and Option (b) soil only.
- The cap will support a stormwater management system and erosion controls along the shoreline.
- Implementation of a long-term maintenance and monitoring program to ensure the integrity of the capped areas.
- ICs to restrict future excavations through the soil cap and limit future land uses.

#### Sediments:

- Dredging of the contaminated sediments found in the Delaware River and Crafts Creek.
- Dewatering and capping of the dredged sediments on-site.
- Backfill by placement of a sandy loam soil with organic matter and restoration of dredged areas by re-establishing wetlands.

#### Groundwater:

- Implementation of a long-term groundwater sampling and analysis program to monitor the contaminant concentrations in the groundwater at the site, to assess the migration and attenuation of these contaminants in the groundwater over time.
- ICs to restrict the installation of wells and the use of contaminated groundwater in the vicinity of the site.

#### **Status of Implementation**

A removal action was conducted between October 1987 and November 1988. The total quantity of material removed off-site for treatment, disposal, and/or recycling was the following: 300 lab pack containers of chemicals; 3,200 full and empty drums; 120 cubic yards of crushed and emptied drums; three pounds of metallic mercury; over 35 tons of baghouse dust; one drum of hazardous waste-containing cyanide; 10 compressed gas cylinders; 3,000 gallons of sulfuric acid

and 2,150 gallons of phosphoric acid; and 239,000 pounds of base neutral solids in drums.

## <u>OU1</u>

The OU1 RA was completed in September 1991 and continued the removal of contaminated source areas. The total quantity of material removed off-site for treatment, disposal, and/or recycling was the following: 263 overpacked drums and 663 crushed drums; 45,864 gallons of transformer oil and 860,709 pounds of transformer carcasses; 266,843 gallons of tank liquids and 1,351 tons of tank sludges; 800 tons of baghouse dust; 251 tons of chemical piles and asbestos; 126 tons of burnt tires; 261 tons of recyclable tires; and excavation of park soil (640 cubic yards).

## <u>OU2</u>

The OU2 RA was completed in March 1995. Approximately 640 cubic yards of park soil contaminated with inorganics was excavated to residential soil levels that allow for unrestricted use. The park area was restored with clean soil and vegetation.

### OU3 (Slag Area)

The OU3 RA was completed in December 2014 and the Remedial Action Report was completed in September 2015. Construction activities included capping and vegetation of the 34-acre Slag Area, installation of 3,000 linear feet of revetment to stabilize the shoreline and construction of a stormwater drainage system to manage and treat the stormwater from the Village of Roebling. As part of OU5, sediments from Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel were dredged, dewatered and placed on-site in the Slag Area prior to capping with a two-foot soil cap consisting of 18-inches of common fill and 6-inches topsoil and vegetation. Capping activities were completed, and the Slag Area was transformed into a new riverfront park with paved pathways for passive recreational uses and water views in historic Roebling.

#### OU4 (Buildings)

The OU4 RA for the buildings and sources of contamination was completed in May 2011. A total of 67 buildings and structures were demolished, including demolition of concrete building foundations and equipment footings, segregating demolition debris, recycling steel debris, and disposal of all wastes generated from the construction activities. Sources of contamination removed included friable pipe insulation, underground oil and chemical lines, underground storm sewer piping, an underground water tunnel and oil-contaminated soil. Work conducted between 1998 and 2008 related to demolition of 48 buildings and remediation of sources of contamination is described in the 2008 OU4 Remedial Action Report. Work conducted between 2009 and 2011 related to demolition of 19 buildings and remediation of sources of contamination is described in the 2013 Addendum to the OU4 Remedial Action Report.

#### OU4 (Main Gate House)

The OU4 RA includes restoration of the Main Gate House and Ambulance Garage consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act. The OU4 RA consisted of three main components:

rehabilitation of the exterior structures to create a weather-tight building and demolition of nonhistoric buildings; rehabilitation of the interior such that it would support a functioning museum and the construction of connector structures that link the buildings; and remediation of the surrounding soils within the area of the future museum. The contaminated soil would be covered with two feet of soil, sidewalks and a parking area. The OU4 RA also included the repair and stabilization of the gantry crane and flag pole, and the installation of selected artifacts on foundations. Construction work on the Main Gate House and soil capping seven acres around the Main Gate House was conducted between December 2005 and June 2009. Restoration of the historic Main Gate House turned the former gateway to the Roebling Mill into part of the Roebling Museum. The museum provides 7,000 square feet of exhibit space documenting the community's social and industrial history.

#### OU5 (Soils)

The OU5 RA for the soil component has been completed in two areas of the site.

Soil capping of five acres and construction of the New Jersey Transit River Line station at Roebling was completed in June 2005. A deed notice was placed on the New Jersey Transit River Line station portion of the site to limit any alteration, improvement or disturbance of site soils.

Soil capping of six acres, stabilization of 1,300 linear feet of shoreline, and habitat restoration activities at the Isolated Parcel were completed in March 2012. The Isolated Parcel is located on the eastern end of the site.

The soil remedy of remaining site soils is planned to be performed in conjunction with the redevelopment of the property.

#### OU5 (Sediments)

The OU5 RA for the sediment component was completed in December 2014 and the Remedial Action Report was completed in September 2015. The dredging of Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel sediments involved delineating contamination above cleanup levels, dredging, transporting, dewatering and on-site placement of approximately 240,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments. These dredged areas were backfilled with sandy soil and replanted with vegetation. The wetland areas in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel have been restored. The shoreline was graded and stabilized with revetment rock to prevent shoreline erosion and recontamination of restored river and creek sediment areas.

### **IC Summary Table**

ICs for OU3, OU4 and OU5 will be completed when the remedial actions are fully implemented. ICs include filing a deed notice by the property owner and a classification exception area and well restriction area (CEA/WRA) with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). A deed notice was placed on the New Jersey Transit River Line station parcel to limit any alteration, improvement or disturbance of the protective capping and site soils.

Media, engineered controls, and areas that do not support UU/UE based on current conditions	ICs Needed	ICs Called for in the Decision Documents	Impacted Parcel(s)	IC Objective	Title of IC Instrument Implemented and Date (or planned)
Soil	Yes	Yes	Sitewide	Limits land use to non- residential use and maintains engineering controls.	Deed restrictions are planned
Groundwater	Yes	Yes	Sitewide	Restricts installation of groundwater wells and groundwater use.	CEA/WRA are planned

Table 1: Summary of Planned and/or Implemented ICs

#### System Operations/Operation and Maintenance

 The operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements will be necessary for several components of the remedy upon completion and implemented through different plans. These will include long-term monitoring and maintenance of soil capped areas, shoreline revetment, wetland restoration in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel, and groundwater. New Jersey Transit maintains the soil cap at the River Line Roebling station and Florence Township's Roebling Museum maintains the Main Gate House building and adjacent soilcapped area. In June 2015, Florence Township assumed responsibility for maintenance of the OU3 riverfront park soil cap and stormwater bioretention basin. The groundwater longterm monitoring program will include sampling for contaminants in the groundwater and potential off-site migration to the nearby surface water and remediated sediment areas in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel.

#### Climate Change

Potential site impacts from climate change have been assessed, and the performance of the remedy is currently not at risk due to the expected effects of climate changes in the region and near the site.

### **III. PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST REVIEW**

This section includes the protectiveness determinations and statements from the **last** FYR as well as the recommendations from the **last** FYR and the current status of those recommendations.

OU #	Protectiveness Determination	Protectiveness Statement
3	Will be Protective	The remedy for OU3 is expected to be protective of human health and the environment upon completion. In
		the interim, remedial activities completed to date have
		adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could
		result in unacceptable risks in these areas.
4	Will be Protective	The remedy for OU4 is expected to be protective of
		human health and the environment upon completion. In
		the interim, remedial activities completed to date have
		adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could
		result in unacceptable risks in these areas.
5	Will be Protective	The remedy for OU5 is expected to be protective of
		human health and the environment upon completion. In
		the interim, remedial activities completed to date have
		adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could
		result in unacceptable risks in these areas.

Table 2: Protectiveness Determinations/Statements from the 2014 FYR

Since the last FYR was completed in 2014, as was referenced in the previous section, the following activities have been completed:

- 2. The OU3 RA for the Slag Area was completed in December 2014 and allows for unlimited use as a new riverfront park. In June 2015, operation and maintenance activities for the soil cap and stormwater bioretention basin were assumed by Florence Township, the owner of the property.
- 3. The OU5 RA for Crafts Creek and Delaware River Back Channel sediments was completed in December 2014. This work involved dredging sediment above cleanup levels, and on-site placement of approximately 240,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments and shoreline stabilization. These dredged areas were backfilled with sandy soil and restored with wetlands vegetation.
- 4. The OU5 RD for groundwater long-term monitoring program was completed in September 2016. The long-term monitoring program includes a sampling and analysis program to characterize the current contaminant concentrations, evaluate data trends and natural attenuation parameter data, and access the potential for groundwater contaminants to impact surface water and remediated sediment areas in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel. The implementation of the groundwater long-term monitoring program has not yet been initiated.
- 5. The OU5 RD for soil capping of a 14-acre parcel adjacent to the Roebling Museum and riverfront park is near completion. This design provides a two-foot soil cap with storm water drainage features and an access road for use by emergency vehicles between the Roebling Museum and OU3 riverfront park, two areas already in reuse. The design includes capping

along the shoreline revetment with habitat restoration within the riparian zone of the Delaware River.

- 6. The OU4 RD for historic preservation mitigation measures of machinery and equipment located within and adjacent to Buildings 92 and 93, is in progress. Buildings 92 and 93 provide temporary protection of the items and will be demolished after historic preservation mitigation measures are completed.
- 7. Most of the main plant area remains uncapped and available for redevelopment. Currently there is a plan for redevelopment of approximately 36 acres within this area.

## **IV. FIVE-YEAR REVIEW PROCESS**

#### **Community Notification, Involvement and Site Interviews**

On October 1, 2018, EPA Region 2 posted a notice on its website indicating that it would be reviewing site cleanups and remedies at 42 Superfund sites in New York, New Jersey, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, including the Roebling Steel Superfund Site. The announcement can be found at the following web address:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-10/documents/five\_year\_reviews\_fy2019\_for\_web\_posting.pdf

In addition to this notification, a public notice was made available to Florence Township for posting on the Town's website, as well as the EPA website, stating that there was a FYR and inviting the public to submit any comments to the U.S. EPA. The results of the review and the report will be made available at: <u>https://www.epa.gov/superfund/roebling-steel</u> and at the Site information repository located at EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, New York, and at the local repositories listed below:

Roebling Public Library	Florence Township Municipal Building
1350 Hornberger Avenue	711 Broad Street
Roebling, New Jersey 08554	Florence, New Jersey 08518

EPA routinely coordinates with Florence Township, the property owner, during all remedial activities at the site. Over the years, EPA has discussed potential redevelopment opportunities that may exist for the vacant land left at the site. The soil remedy for remaining contaminated site soils is planned to be performed in conjunction with the redevelopment of the property. In January 2018, the site was included on the Superfund Task Force Report focus list of targeted sites with the greatest expected redevelopment and commercial potential. The announcement can be found at the following web address:

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-superfund-redevelopment-focus-list

### Data Review

No chemical monitoring data were collected over the past five years to support evaluation of the OU3, OU4 and OU5 remedies. Specifically, OU4 RD for historic preservation mitigation, OU5 RD for soil capping of a 14-acre parcel, and OU5 RD for groundwater long-term monitoring program are design activities that do not need chemical monitoring. However, data were collected during OU3 RA and OU5 RD/RA to ensure cleanup levels would be met and to implement the dredging, backfilling and capping operations. There was sediment characterization sampling prior to placement in the OU3 Slag Area, compliance testing of both backfill and capping materials and as-built bathymetric surveys for completed dredging and backfilling depths. The sediment characterization sampling results, compliance testing results and as-built survey drawings are provided in the OU3 Slag Area and OU5 Crafts Creek and Delaware River Back Channel Remedial Action Reports.

Chemical monitoring data will be necessary for the groundwater component of OU5 RA and will include sampling for contaminants in the groundwater and potential off-site migration to the nearby surface water and remediated sediment areas in Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel. The OU5 RD for groundwater long-term monitoring program was completed in September 2016. Funding to implement the groundwater component of OU5 RA may not be available for several more years, therefore delaying the collection of groundwater monitoring data beyond the next FYR period. Groundwater samples were last collected between 1990 and 1998 as part of the OU5 RI. The groundwater remedy includes long-term monitoring and ICs, and there is a technical impracticability waiver for site-wide groundwater.

The documents, data and information which were reviewed in completing this FYR are summarized in Appendix B.

#### Site Inspection

The inspection of the site was conducted on December 3, 2018. The following participants from EPA and NJDEP were in attendance: Tamara Rossi, EPA Region 2 RPM; Jeff Josephson, EPA Section Chief; Mindy Pensak, EPA Ecological Risk Assessor; Siva Vijayasundaram, NJDEP Site Manager; and Jill Monroe, NJDEP Hydrogeologist. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the protectiveness of the remedies.

The site inspection consisted of a physical inspection of the on-site drainage and capped areas, shoreline revetment, wetland restoration of dredged areas, monitoring wells and site fencing. Overall, there are no major issues that were identified during the site inspection. The inspection found that all the areas were in good condition and working as intended. The site was properly maintained and secured with perimeter security fencing. Observations made during the inspection are noted below:

- Wetland plantings were submerged during the inspection due to high tide.
- Tire depressions in the OU3 cap and a small area of settlement near the edge of the revetment.

- Surface water levels at high tide reached the top of the OU3 revetment (former water pump house).
- Security fencing around Building 92 and the back door were damaged due to trespassers.

Follow-up inspections and corrective measures may address these observations as funding becomes available.

## V. TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT GET TECHNICAL

**QUESTION A:** Is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents?

The OU3 ROD amendment called for capping and vegetation of the 34-acre Slag Area, shoreline stabilization and stormwater management system, and long-term monitoring and ICs to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy. The OU3 soil remedy was fully implemented and functioning as intended.

The remedies for OU4 and OU5 are not fully implemented, even though some components of the remedies have been completed. EPA anticipates that these remedies will function as intended once they have been fully implemented.

The OU4 ROD called for the remediation of buildings and sources of contamination, restoration of the Main Gate House, and other historic preservation mitigation measures. Except for Buildings 92 and 93, the OU4 building remedy was fully implemented and functioning as intended during the last FYR. Historic preservation mitigation measures related to equipment stored in Buildings 92 and 93 remain to be completed consistent with the OU4 ROD and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The OU5 ROD called for dredging and on-site placement of sediments from Crafts Creek and the Delaware River Back Channel. These dredged areas were backfilled with sandy soil and replanted with wetlands vegetation. The shoreline stabilization with revetment rock was installed to prevent shoreline erosion and recontamination of restored river and creek sediment areas. The removal of contaminated sediments followed by clean backfill and replanting vegetation reduces the risk to ecological receptors to acceptable levels. The compliance testing of the backfill materials is considered appropriate without chemical monitoring. The OU5 sediment remedy was fully implemented and is functioning as intended.

Additionally, ICs to limit land use, maintain engineering controls, and restrict installation of groundwater wells and groundwater use will be completed for impacted parcels of the site as described in the IC Summary Table.

**QUESTION B**: Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives (RAOs) used at the time of the remedy selection still valid?

There are no changes in the physical conditions of the site that would affect the protectiveness of the selected remedies. The land use assumptions, exposure assumptions and pathways evaluated

in the RI/FS and considered in the decision documents remain valid. Although the risk assessment process has been updated in recent years and specific parameters and toxicity values have changed, the process used is consistent with current practice and the need to implement a remedial action remains valid.

Potential risks from exposure to site soils are driven by lead. Site-wide capping will protect human health and the environment from these potential risks. Capping and vegetation of the OU3 Slag Area has been completed, which eliminates the potential for human exposure to contamination in this area. Once the remedies for OU4 and OU5 have been fully implemented and all ICs are put in place, the potential for human contact with remaining contaminated soils on-site will be eliminated. EPA issued a new lead memorandum in December of 2016 (OLEM Directive 9200.2-167) which indicates that a blood lead level (BLL) of 10 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu$ g/dL) is no longer considered health-protective. Current scientific information indicates that adverse health effects are evident with blood lead levels between 2 and 8  $\mu$ g/dL. A target BLL of 5  $\mu$ g/dL is currently being used by Region 2 to evaluate risks and develop cleanup levels for lead. Although the target BLL at the time of the remedy was higher, there will be no exposure to lead from site soils after site-wide capping is completed. Exposure to uncapped soils is reduced by access controls and vegetation. Remaining soil contamination will be covered with a cap consistent with development plans. Therefore, the cleanup levels for lead that were selected at the time of the ROD are considered protective.

Since it has been determined that it is technically impracticable to achieve drinking water standards and groundwater is not likely to be restored to potable use, groundwater ARARs are not applicable. Residents in the vicinity of the contaminated groundwater use a municipal water supply, and ICs will prevent the installation of wells, ensuring future protectiveness. The evaluation of the groundwater pathway in this FYR focused on the potential for vapor intrusion if buildings were to be constructed over contaminated groundwater once the site is redeveloped, which was not evaluated in the original risk assessment. Although there are sporadic low-level detections of VOCs in the groundwater, the primary site-related contaminants in groundwater are metals. Maximum groundwater VOC concentrations from sampling conducted during the OU5 investigation did not exceed residential vapor intrusion screening levels set at a cancer risk of 10<sup>-4</sup> and a hazard of 1, therefore, it is unlikely that vapor intrusion will be a concern with future construction on-site. The potential for vapor intrusion should be re-evaluated as updated groundwater data is collected when long-term monitoring is initiated.

Remedial action objectives developed for OU3, OU4 and OU5 remain protective.

**QUESTION C**: Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

At this time there is no information that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy.

## **VI. ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Issues/Recommendations**

OU(s) without Issues/Recommendations Identified in the Five-Year Review:

None

#### **OTHER FINDINGS**

None.

## VII. PROTECTIVNESS STATEMENT

Protectiveness Statement(s)			
Operable Unit: OU3	Protectiveness Determination: Protective	<i>Planned Addendum</i> <i>Completion Date:</i> Click here to enter a date	
Protectiveness Statement: T	he OU3 remedy is protective of human hea	lth and the environment.	
	Protectiveness Statement(s)		
Operable Unit: OU4	Protectiveness Determination: Will be Protective	<i>Planned Addendum</i> <i>Completion Date:</i> Click here to enter a date	
<i>Protectiveness Statement:</i> The OU4 remedy is expected to be protective of human health and the environment upon completion. In the interim, remedial activities completed to date have adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks in these areas.			
	Protectiveness Statement(s)		
Operable Unit: OU5	Protectiveness Determination: Will be Protective	<i>Planned Addendum</i> <i>Completion Date:</i> Click here to enter a date	
<i>Protectiveness Statement:</i> The OU5 remedy is expected to be protective of human health and the environment upon completion. In the interim, remedial activities completed to date have adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks in these areas.			

## VIII. NEXT REVIEW

The next FYR report for the Roebling Steel Superfund Site is required five years from the completion date of this review.

# **APPENDIX A – CHRONOLOGY OF SITE EVENTS**

Chronology of Events	Date(s)
Facility operated for production of steel products	1906-1982
Final listing on EPA National Priorities List	1983
NJDEP removal action	1985
Completion of EPA removal action 1 (source removal)	1989
OU1 Record of Decision (source removal and northwest park soil)	1990
Completion of OU1 remedial action (source removal)	1992
Completion of EPA removal action 2 (OU1 northwest park soil)	1991
OU2 ROD (southeast park soil)	1991
OU3 ROD (Slag Area)	1991
Completion of OU2 remedial action (southeast park soil)	1995
OU4 ROD (buildings and Main Gate House)	1996
Start of OU4 remedial action for building demolition and removal of contamination sources associated with the buildings	1999
Completion of EPA removal action 3 (OU4 asbestos mitigation)	1999
OU5 ROD (soil, sediment and groundwater) and amendment to OU3 ROD	2003
Completion of the initial five-year review	2004
Start of OU4 remedial action for the Main Gate House and the remediation of the surrounding soil	2005
Start of OU3 remedial action for shoreline stabilization at the Slag Area	2006
Start of OU5 remedial action for remediation of soils and shoreline stabilization at the Isolated Parcel	2008
Completion of the second five-year review	2009
Completion of OU4 remedial action for the Main Gate House and the remediation of the surrounding soil	2009

Start of OU3 remedial action for remediation of soils at the Slag Area	2010
Start of OU5 remedial action for remediation of river and creek sediments	2010
Completion of OU4 remedial action for building demolition and removal of contamination sources associated with the buildings	2011
Completion of OU5 remedial action for remediation of soils and shoreline stabilization at the Isolated Parcel	2012
Completion of the third five-year review	2014
Completion of OU5 remedial action for remediation of river and creek sediments	2014
Completions of OU3 remedial action for remediation of soils at the Slag Area	2014

# **APPENDIX B – REFERENCE LIST**

Documents, Data and Information Reviewed in Completing the Five-Year Review			
Document Title, Author	Submittal Date		
OU1 Record of Decision, EPA	March 1990		
OU2 and OU3 Record of Decision, EPA	September 1991		
OU4 Record of Decision, EPA	September 1996		
OU5 Record of Decision and OU3 ROD Amendment, EPA	September 2003		
Five-Year Review Report, EPA	January 2004		
OU3 Revetment Report, WRS	January 2008		
Second Five-Year Review Report, EPA	January 2009		
OU4 Addendum Sampling Trip Report, Tank Farm Storage AOC, Weston	March 2009		
OU4 Removal of Oil-Contaminated Soil at the Former Bldg No. 115A AOC, Weston	November 2010		
OU5 Final Isolated Parcel Remedial Action Report, Weston	April 2012		
OU4 Landfill AOC Investigation and Sampling Report, Weston	May 2012		
OU4 Former Bldg No. 2/ Pad 2 AOC Investigation and Sampling Report, Weston	May 2012		
OU4 Removal of the Underground Water Tunnel, Weston	September 2012		
OU4 Addendum to the Removal of Storm Sewer Outfall No. 4, Weston	September 2012		
OU4 Addendum to Remedial Action Report, Weston	March 2013		
Third Five-Year Review Report, EPA	February 2014		
OU5 Back Channel Sediments Remedial Action Report, CDM	August 2015		
OU5 Crafts Creek Sediments Remedial Action Report, CDM	September 2015		
OU3 Remedial Action Report, CDM	September 2015		
OU5 Groundwater Long-Term Monitoring Plan, CDM	September 2016		
OU5 Groundwater Predesign Investigation Report, CDM	April 2017		

## **APPENDIX C – FIGURES**



