

COVID Community Update

March 2020

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

EPA has consulted with Rio Tinto and Ramboll, the parties responsible for cleaning up the Pohatcong Groundwater Contamination site. EPA will temporarily pause work on contamination underlying the Albea property, until after April 20. At that time, EPA will reassess the decision to discontinue this work. The suspension of work is a temporary measure as we adjust to the ongoing situation with COVID-19. We will be periodically reassessing this decision moving forward and are prepared to come back to the site to continue work as soon as possible. The decision to suspend work was made in consultation with New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection. EPA will continue to work closely with state and local health officials, and all partners and stakeholders, to make determinations about site work based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It's important to know that EPA maintains its ability to respond to environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to protect human health and the environment by responding to releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

For more information on Pohatcong Valley, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/pohatcong-valley-groundwater>

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force