

COVID Community Update**June 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 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 are the priority.

On June 10, contractors will begin work at Koppers Pond, a 12 – acre area that is part of the Kentucky Avenue Wellfield Superfund site. The activities relate to EPA's September 2016 remedy selection to address contamination at Koppers Pond.

Following removal of water within the pond footprint, existing sediment and soil will be consolidated and graded to accommodate placement of capping material. The former pond area will be graded to create a smooth, continuous bottom surface for placement of an orange, non-

woven fabric that will serve as a demarcation layer between the graded soil/sediment and the capping material. Native pollinator seed mix and mulch will be added to facilitate vegetation growth. Air monitoring will take place during the entire operation to protect workers and the public. It is anticipated that this activity will be completed this summer.

EPA's contractors are implementing health and safety plans specific to preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus during these activities. These plans require best practices for site safety, including face covering, gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment for employees, temperature checks of employees, tracking-employees who might be ill and social distancing. EPA is monitoring site operations and contractor's health and safety practices.

The decision to undertake this work was made in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. 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.

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 Kentucky Avenue, please visit:

<https://www.gov/superfund/kentucky-avenue>

For more information on EPA's response to COVID-19, 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