

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

Perry Katz/Tom Dobinson
Remedial Project Managers
212-637-4426/212-637-4176
katz.perry@epa.gov or
dobinson.thomas@epa.gov

Natalie Loney
Community Involvement Coordinator
212-637-3639
loney.natalie@epa.gov

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. Therefore, decisions about continuing on-site activities have been made on a case-by-case basis. We are working closely with our local and state partners to evaluate options for continuing site work, securing sites, or resuming work, especially in areas where local health declarations are in effect due to COVID-19.

EPA temporarily paused work in April because the work at the Welsbach/GGM site involves a large work crew of

approximately 40 members and takes place on an active port facility in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. Limited work continued assisting the utility company with handling contaminated soil as part of their project to replace utility poles on site. This portion of the work involves a small crew of two to four members. Based on EPA's assessment of the recent COVID-19 guidance provided by the State of New Jersey, and in consultation with the City of Gloucester and the port facility, field work is resuming at the port facility of the Welsbach, which currently includes relocation of underground utilities. EPA's contractors are implementing health and safety plans specific to preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus during cleanup activities. These plans require best practices for site safety, including face covering, gloves, and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees, temperature checks of employees, tracking employees who might be ill, and social distancing. EPA is monitoring site operations and the contractor's health and safety practices.

As the situation evolves, EPA will continue to inform residents of any further updates and will work closely with state and local health officials, 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 the Welsbach/General Gas Mantle site please visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/welsbach-ggm

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