

**COVID Community Update****July 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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For more information on Hopewell:  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/hopewell-precision>

For more information on EPA's  
response to COVID:  
<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

EPA will safely commence residential hook-ups to the public water supply and other work on residential properties at the Hopewell Precision site.

During the residential interior waterline connection process, each homeowner should expect to be visited by a group of 2-to-3 plumbing personnel who should complete the connection work within a one-day time frame. Overall, EPA expects that this connection work would take approximately four to five months to complete.

In addition to resuming work in homes impacted by contaminated groundwater, EPA continues to maintain sub-slab depressurization systems (SSDS) that mitigate indoor vapors in 54 homes which have been impacted by vapor intrusion from the contaminated groundwater.

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, US Army Corps of Engineers staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

Because some of the work at the Hopewell Precision site involves contractor personnel entering approximately 300 homes in order to hook up these homes to the public water supply system, EPA had previously suspended this portion of our work. In June 2020, EPA resumed and completed maintenance work on special systems called "point-of-entry treatment systems," or POETS, which EPA installed at the site to treat the drinking water at 42 residential private wells. The decision to resume work was made in consultation with the Town of East Fishkill. The COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan will be strictly followed and calls for workers to: 1) employ social distancing when entering homes, 2) enter homes via basements or garages when possible, 3) wear face masks when inside the residences, 4) clearly mark off work zones, 5) disinfect the area prior to leaving a residence, and 6) refrain from entering a residential property if the property owner indicates anyone within the residence has experienced COVID-19 type symptoms within the previous 14 days.

As the situation evolves, EPA will continue to inform residents of any updates. 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 is important to know that under the current situation, EPA has maintained its ability to respond to human health or environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to address immediate risks from releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.