



APRIL 2024

## Cleaning Contaminated Soil and Sediment

In February 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began removing trees and shrubs at the Diamond Head Oil Refinery Superfund site in Kearny, New Jersey, to prepare the site for the excavation, removal, and disposal of soil and sediment contaminated with dioxin, lead, chromium, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As part of the cleanup, EPA will install a clean soil cover to replace the contaminated soil, as well as re-seed any disturbed areas, and replant the wetland areas. The cleanup is expected to continue through the spring of 2025.

The EPA does not anticipate odors during the cleanup; however, the EPA will monitor the air and will address any odors as necessary. Truck transportation routes will not pass through residential neighborhoods.



### Contaminants

- **Dioxins** are highly toxic and can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, damage to the immune system, and can interfere with hormones. More information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/dioxin/learn-about-dioxin>
- **Lead** is a health concern, especially for young children and pregnant women, and can affect almost every organ and system in the body. Exposure can cause developmental effects in children. More information can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>
- **Chromium** at high levels can damage the nose and cause cancer. Ingesting high levels of chromium may result in anemia or damage to the stomach or intestines. More information can be found at: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts7.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts7.pdf)
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** are a group of man-made organic chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States but are still found in the environment. Health effects include acne-like skin conditions in adults and neurobehavioral and immunological changes in children. More information can be found at: [www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls](http://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls)

## Site Background

The Diamond Head Oil Refinery Superfund site is a 30.5-acre area near the Hackensack Meadowlands in Kearny, New Jersey. The site has over 20 acres of unoccupied land, including wetland areas, a drainage ditch, a vegetated landfill area along the western border, and the remnants of the former Diamond Head Oil Refinery on the eastern portion of the property. Interstate 280 (I-280) borders the property to the south and east. Harrison Avenue (Newark Turnpike) borders the property to the north, and the Campbell Distribution Foundry is to the

west. The property is undeveloped and zoned for industrial and commercial use. Site contamination does not affect the nearest residential area, located a half-mile to the west.

Several companies, including PSC Resources, Inc., Ag-Met Oil Service, Inc., and Newtown Refining Corporation, reprocessed oil at the Diamond Head Oil facility between the 1940s to the 1970s. These companies used multiple aboveground storage tanks and shallow pits to store oil waste during facility operations. This waste was periodically dumped directly into neighboring properties to the east and the wetland area on the site's south side, creating an "oil lake."

## EPA Contact Information

---

**Brittany Gustavson**

Remedial Project Manager  
212-637-4337

[Gustavson.Brittany@epa.gov](mailto:Gustavson.Brittany@epa.gov)

**Drew Curtis**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
212-637-3726

[curtis.malcolm@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.malcolm@epa.gov)



[www.epa.gov/superfund/diamond-head-oil](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/diamond-head-oil)

[www.facebook.com/eparegion2/](http://www.facebook.com/eparegion2/)

<https://twitter.com/EPAregion2>

---

For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact the EPA Regional Public Liaison Office: James Haklar, [Haklar.james@epa.gov](mailto:Haklar.james@epa.gov) or (732) 906-6817 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.