



OCTOBER 2024

## Removing Contaminated Soil

As part of the cleanup of the Diamond Head Oil Refinery Superfund site, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently installing clean soil cover to replace the contaminated soil that the agency removed from the site. The EPA is continuing to remove contaminated soil from the site and will also re-seed any disturbed areas and replant the wetland areas.

The cleanup is expected to continue through the fall of 2025.

This summer, the EPA dug up approximately 16,000 cubic yards of the estimated 92,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the main portion of the property on the site, and 3,000 cubic yards of the estimated 55,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil near the on- and off-ramps for I-280. The agency also began operating the on-site wastewater treatment plant. The EPA continues to monitor the air at the site and will address any odors as necessary. Trucks transporting the contaminated soil and equipment only use streets in non-residential neighborhoods.

Earlier this year to prepare for the cleanup work, the EPA removed trees and shrubs and installed temporary facilities, including office trailers.



### 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/toxfags/tfacts7.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tfacts7.pdf)
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls, or 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/pcb/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls](http://www.epa.gov/pcb/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls)

## Site Background

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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. It also includes the remnants of the former Diamond Head Oil Refinery on the eastern portion of the property. Interstate 280 borders the property to the south and east. Harrison Avenue, also referred to as 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 reprocessed oil at the Diamond Head Oil facility between the 1940s to the 1970s, including PSC Resources, Inc., Ag-Met Oil Service, Inc., and Newtown Refining Corporation. 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

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