



# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Resin Disposal Superfund Site

Jefferson Hills, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania



— Remedial Design Completed and Work Begins —

June 2015

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to monitor the cleanup work done at the Resin Disposal Superfund Site, located in Jefferson Hills Borough, PA.

**This fact sheet provides a detailed summary of the remedial design for replacing the existing treatment system.**

## EPA is Working to Improve the Landfill Leachate Treatment System

This summer, EPA is overseeing work on the new leachate collection system.

The cleanup for this Site was completed in 2003. Nearby residents are not being exposed to contaminants from the landfill. However, the existing system has overflows, so the new system being built will have a larger capacity to help ensure that human health and the environment remain protected.

“Leachate” is the term used to describe liquid that has percolated through or drained from waste.

Prior to the cleanup actions at the Site, leachate was not captured, resulting in the current groundwater contamination.

Today, leachate is captured, collected and treated before being discharged into nearby sanitation sewer lines.

EPA oversees the cleanup work done by the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), Hercules, Inc.

## What You May Notice

The new leachate pretreatment system work should take about four more months to complete, pending weather conditions. While work is underway, you may notice an increase in workers and truck traffic, and possibly large equipment activities on Site.

***Photo below: Site entrance fence and signage***



## **Design Details for the Improved Leachate System**

The New Leachate Pretreatment System design is completed. This design is to replace the pre-existing Leachate Management System that has been working to collect and treat onsite contaminated leachate and groundwater since 1996.

The remedial design plan consists of:

- Constructing two separate treatment facilities for the different types of processing equipment:
  - ✓ The Phase I Treatment building will hold the overflow leachate storage tanks, the oil/water separation equipment and separated oil storage tanks.
  - ✓ The Phase II Treatment building will hold the separated water treatment equipment and storage tanks.
- The system is designed to collect leachate through a gravity-powered line that runs partially underground and partially above ground, to help minimize possible freezing within the pipe.
- The section of above ground pipe will be insulated and located immediately adjacent to the processing building.
- The existing line will be replaced with a line larger in diameter to handle maximum anticipated flow. The line leads to a series of storage tanks with the capacity to handle an excess of flow that could result from future severe storm events. This added measure of safety will help ensure that the amount of flow will not be too much for the line to manage effectively on a consistent basis.
- The storage unit that holds the oily-water mixture will contain a filtration system that will treat any vapors that may off-gas from the oils before being vented safely into the atmosphere.
- The separated water will be pumped to a treatment unit where solids and any residual oils will be filtered out using a carbon filtration system.
- The treated leachate will then be safely discharged into an existing sanitary sewer pipe for further treatment at the West Elizabeth Publically-Owned Treatment Works (POTW).
- Each treatment building will have safety measures in place, called “bunds,” in case of any spills. The bunds will capture and contain any spills and will include a sump and sump-pump.
- Once the new leachate system is in place and operating, EPA will continue to monitor the cleanup progress.
- Through our site inspections, EPA is able to determine if the cleanup remedy in place remains protective of human health and the environment. It also helps identify any areas that can be improved, repaired or replaced, as technology advances with time.

## Site Background

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- The Resin Disposal Site is approximately 26 acres in size and consists of a former industrial waste landfill, located in Allegheny County, PA., less than one mile west of the town of West Elizabeth.
- Prior to 1949, the Site was strip mined for coal. From 1949 until 1964, the two-acre landfill received about 85,000 tons of industrial waste including solvents, resin cakes and filter materials and oils from resin manufacturing processes. As a result, onsite soils and groundwater were contaminated with chemical compounds such as benzene, toluene and naphthalene.
- Pennsylvania Industrial Chemical Corp. (PICCO) once produced resin for adhesives, floor tiles, paint, plastics and tires. In 1973, Hercules, Inc. purchased the property from PICCO.
- The Site was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983 making it eligible to receive federal Superfund cleanup money.
- Once the cleanup was completed, the Site was delisted in 2003. The cleanup included:
  - ⇒ Installing a multi-layered cap over the landfill to eliminate direct exposure to contaminated soils and to help eliminate additional groundwater contamination through rainwater infiltration.
  - ⇒ Ongoing treatment of groundwater through an onsite treatment facility. A leachate collection system was installed that collects contaminated groundwater so oils and wastewater can be separated. Oils are removed for proper off-site disposal and wastewater is directed to a treatment facility.
  - ⇒ Installing a fence around the landfill to restrict access.
  - ⇒ Placing institutional controls on the property to alert potential buyers of onsite contaminants and prohibit future development that could jeopardize the cleanup remedy.
- In 2011, three unreported releases of untreated wastewater into the sewer system were discovered. The Potential Responsible Party, Hercules Inc., was held accountable and is upgrading the leachate treatment system.

## Next Steps

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- Work to install the Remedial Design has begun. Once finished, EPA will oversee testing of the new system to check for effectiveness.
- EPA conducts a site inspection every five years for any cleanup site where contaminants have been left onsite, called "Five-Year Reviews" (5YR). EPA is currently conducting its fourth 5YR at this Site. The inspection report is expected to be completed by December 2015 and will be available online at: [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD063766828/](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD063766828/)



**More Site information is  
available on-line at:**

**[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/  
PAD063766828/](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/PAD063766828/)**

If you have additional questions,  
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***Photo opposite: Concrete tank foundation slab***



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