

# SAFETY LIGHT CORP. SUPERFUND SITE



Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site, Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania

August 2017

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Continues the Cleanup at the Safety Light Corp Superfund Site

### EPA issues an Explanation of Significant Differences for Cleanup Plan for Operable Unit 3

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to modify the cleanup plan for contaminated soils, or Operable Unit-3 (OU-3), at the Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site (Site), located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

This fact sheet provides a brief summary of additional work that will be performed to clean up contaminated soils, described in the ESD.

In June 2016, EPA issued an Early-Interim Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-3 to address contaminated soils in the West Dump, West Lagoon, East Dump, and East Lagoon that are located in an abandoned canal within the 100-year floodplain on the Site.

Based on a November 2016 removal assessment, additional areas within the abandoned canal and/or 100-year floodplain with radionuclide soil concentrations above soil risk-based screening levels (RSLs) were identified.

The ESD modifies the Selected Remedy in the original Early-Interim ROD to excavate an additional 998 cubic yards (total estimated volume) of radionuclide-contaminated soil/debris. Excavation and off-site disposal of this additional radionuclide-contaminated soil/debris is not expected to exceed the original estimated capital cost of \$9,068,000 in the Early-Interim ROD. This modification to the Selected Remedy does not fundamentally alter the basic features of the Selected Remedy with respect to scope, performance, and cost.

During the work, excavated soils are surveyed within the Soil Staging Area to determine if any off-spec material or discrete radioactive objects are present. Any discrete radioactive objects are assessed and disposed of at an approved facility. Soils are loaded into Intermodal Containers (IMCs), and shipped offsite for disposal. Additional locations in the former canal with contaminated soils and/or discrete objects will be excavated based upon the results of assessment activities. Perimeter and work zone air monitoring are conducted during soil handling activities. No radioactivity has been detected above applicable action levels.

Approximately 10,634 tons of soil have been loaded into 645 IMCs during this phase of the cleanup. A total of 623 IMCs have been shipped offsite at an approved facility as of July 30, 2017.

The remainder of OU-3 will be addressed by future response actions when the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is complete. The final remedy will be documented in a final ROD.

The full text of the June 2016 Early-Interim Rod and the August 2017 ESD can be viewed at <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR64486>.

## Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located near Bloomsburg, PA, along Old Berwick Road. It is about 10 acres and bordered mostly by residential properties and the Susquehanna River. Past activities at the Site included the manufacturing of self-illuminated watches and instrument dials, smoke detectors, exit signs, and other products containing radioactive materials (such as radium-226, strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium).

The cleanup is divided into three separate Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addressed onsite buildings and debris; OU-2 addresses onsite groundwater; and OU-3 addresses soils, surface water, and sediment.

Initially, EPA unearthed and removed drums and other containers of historical radioactive wastes.

In phases, EPA removed significant amounts of stored materials from within the buildings for proper offsite disposal, then demolished all onsite structures and removed related debris.

EPA continues to coordinate with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) during cleanup activities.

## Contact Us

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## Resources

For more information about the Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site, please visit:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/safetylight](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/safetylight).

Site-related documents are available in the Administrative Record database at:  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collections/03/AR/PAD987295276>

These documents can also be viewed locally at the Bloomsburg Area Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

Address Label Here

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