



EPA

Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, MID-ATLANTIC REGION

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania

May 2019

EPA completes interim cleanup of contaminated soils

EPA has completed this phase of the planned cleanup of contaminated soils, or Operable Unit 3 (OU-3), at the Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site, located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

In June 2016, EPA finalized an interim cleanup plan, in the Early-Interim Record of Decision (ROD), to address soil contamination in the West Dump, West Lagoon, East Dump, and East Lagoon portions of the site. EPA modified this cleanup plan in 2017 and again in 2018, to include additional areas of excavation within and adjacent to the onsite abandoned canal within the 100-year floodplain. All excavation and site demobilization activities were completed in April 2019.

All excavated areas were backfilled with stone, topsoil, and revegetated. Perimeter air monitoring was conducted throughout the cleanup activities and no radioactivity was detected above applicable action levels.

Over the duration of the excavation activities, approximately 25,030 tons of contaminated soil were loaded into 1,503 intermodal containers (IMCs) and shipped offsite for proper disposal.

Next Steps

EPA will be performing onsite groundwater monitoring in the Spring 2019. EPA will use groundwater monitoring data and the data collected during the interim soil cleanup to finalize the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study reports for OU-2 (onsite groundwater) and OU-3 (soils, surface water, and sediment).

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Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located near Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, 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 areas or Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addresses on-Site buildings and debris; OU-2 addresses on-Site 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 off-Site disposal, then demolished all on-Site structures and removed related debris. EPA continues to coordinate with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) during cleanup activities.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/safetyslight>

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