# **Community Update**

# **Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site**

This community update was prepared by the Fairmont Coke Works Team.

**Summer 2020** 

#### What's Happening at the Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and ExxonMobil entered into a Consent Decree, effective March 21, 2019, in which ExxonMobil agreed to implement the final cleanup activities for the Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site as outlined in the December 2017 Record of Decision (summarized below). In 2019, ExxonMobil installed and sampled monitoring wells to design the final groundwater remedy for the west end of the property. The installation of a small-scale version of the final groundwater remedy (pilot test) is planned for the summer of 2020. Information will be gathered from the pilot test to ensure the full-scale model of the final groundwater remedy operates as designed. The pilot test will be installed below ground. Mulch was applied to wetlands at the site in 2019. By early 2021, additional mulch will be applied along with wetland plant seeds.

ExxonMobil submitted the work plan for the pilot test to the USEPA and WVDEP for review and approval. The agencies have approved the work, which enables ExxonMobil to install the pilot test.

## **Timeline** Spring 2020

Spring 2020 Summer 2020 Fall 2020 through Spring 2021 Winter 2021 Fall 2021 2022 Work plan reviewed and approved by federal and state agencies.

Install pilot test.

Monitor performance of pilot test.

Apply mulch and seeding.

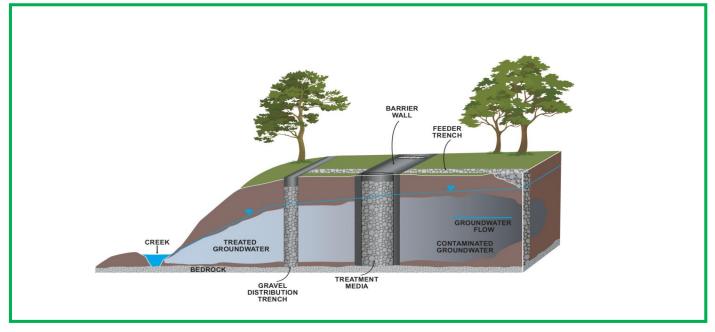
Complete pilot test.

Scheduled date for design and construction of full-scale treatment system.

#### **Summary of Selected Remedy**

Many cleanup activities have taken place at this former coke production facility. The following cleanup actions are the final response actions necessary to address remaining groundwater and sediment contamination:

- A permeable reactive barrier wall will be constructed beneath the ground surface to neutralize acidic
  conditions and reduce elevated levels of aluminum, iron, manganese and benzene concentrations in
  groundwater prior its discharge to a small tributary to the Monongahela River;
- Organic compost will be applied to two wetland areas prior to reseeding to reduce bioavailability of metals;
- · Long-term environmental monitoring will be performed; and
- Land use restrictions will be placed to prohibit residential use, prohibit use of groundwater, and to require that future buildings be constructed using vapor barrier methods.



### **Redevelopment Potential**

No further cleanup activities are required on a majority of the Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site; 50-plus acres are available for redevelopment. The site is zoned for industrial and commercial use, subject to some land-use restrictions. Available infrastructure includes water, sewer, gas, three phase electric, voice data and television cable. Future construction activities related to the groundwater remedy outlined above will be limited to the western end of the property and constructed to maximize the area available for redevelopment.

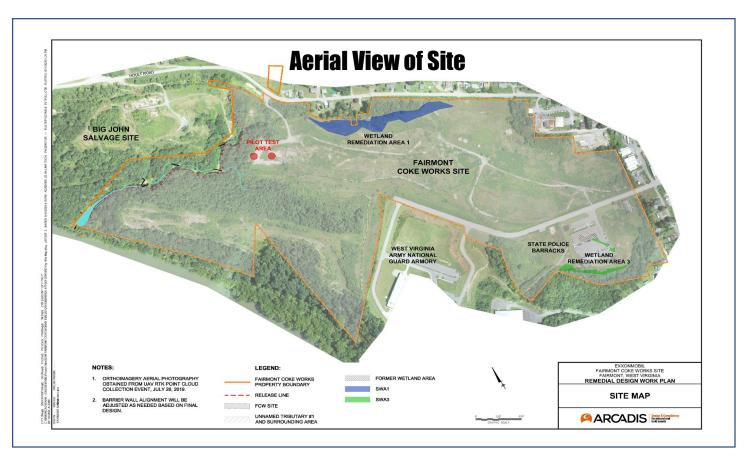
Early redevelopment activities completed on the site property include the West Virginia State Police Troop 1 Headquarters. The WV State Police facility includes a fleet maintenance garage and a communication tower. The West Virginia Army National Guard Armory is adjacent to the site's southern boundary.

The site is owned by the Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site Custodial Trust (FCT), administered by WVDEP and supported by the City of Fairmont. Representatives are available to speak to anyone interested in redevelopment of the property.

#### **Site History**

Built by the U. S. Department of War from 1918 to 1920, Domestic Coke Corporation, a corporate predecessor of ExxonMobil, owned the Site from 1918 to 1948 and operated a byproducts coke plant. Sharon Steel Corporation (Sharon Steel) bought the Site in 1948 and operated a coke-production facility there until 1979, when operations ceased. Sharon Steel filed for protection under federal bankruptcy laws in 1987.

Because of Sharon Steel's bankruptcy and ExxonMobil's prior ownership via a predecessor, on September 17, 1997, ExxonMobil signed a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund") Administrative Order on Consent with USEPA. ExxonMobil purchased the site in July 1998 and began site remediation work by removing asbestos in 1999.



**COVID-19 STATEMENT:** As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state partners, and contractors as the top priority.

### **Project Contacts**

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Additional information about the site can be found at the local library or online:

Marion County Public Library

321 Monroe Street

bttp://www.epa.gov/super

321 Monroe Street Fairmont, WV 304-366-1210 http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sharonsteel-fairmont