

Crossley Farm Superfund Site

Community Update | Hereford Township, PA | October 2023



Infrastructure Funding at Work

EPA announced a \$3.5 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to cleanup Superfund sites. This funding is accelerating cleanup at dozens of sites across the country, including Crossley Farm. EPA is investing \$10.9 million into Crossley Farm to clean up a part of the site known as the source area. Groundwater at the source area is highly contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE).



Tour of the wastewater treatment plant on the Crossley Farm site with students from Upper Perkiomen High School.

Crossley Farm has a treatment plant on the farm property that has been operating since 2014. The treatment plant uses air stripping¹ technology and carbon filtration to remove TCE contamination and other volatile organic compounds² from groundwater. The treatment plant has been effectively treating the groundwater contamination that is referred to as the Valley Plume. EPA is now installing groundwater extraction wells in the source area to pump the contaminated groundwater from the source area to the treatment plant. The groundwater that will be extracted from the source area and will then be piped and collected to a central location called the source area building. From there, the water will be piped to the existing treatment plant for treatment.

EPA began the cleanup work in April 2023 and expects the work to continue throughout the winter and be completed in the summer of 2024.

Glossary of helpful terms:





¹ **What is Air Stripping?** - Air stripping is the process of moving air through contaminated water in an aboveground treatment system to remove harmful chemicals.

² **What are volatile organic compounds?** - Volatile organic compounds are a group of chemicals. Depending on the chemical and length of exposure, they can lead to short-term or long-term health effects. They have a high vapor pressure, meaning they evaporate, or volatilize, quickly.

³ **What are Operable Units (OUs)?** - EPA organizes sites into Operable Units to make distinct areas of cleanup depending on site issues. At Crossley Farm, there are three Operable Units.



Piping being installed to transport contaminated water from the wells at the source area to the treatment plant.

Site Remedial Action Timeline		
Install Extraction Wells and Convert Eight (8) Old Wells	Complete	✓
Dig 3500' of trench and install 3500' of piping to connect wells to Source Area Building	In Progress (3,150' complete)	
Construct New Source Area Building	In Progress	
Install New Access Roads and Parking Areas	December 2023	
Improve Current Groundwater Treatment System	February 2024	
System Start-Up Testing	April 2024	
Site Restoration	May 2024	
Hydraulic Control Plan Study	July 2024	
Project Completion (Demobilize from Site)	July 2024	



The Story of Crossley Farm

The Crossley Farm Superfund Site is approximately 200 acres of farmland. A portion of the property was used for dumping waste in the 1960s and 1970s, which caused TCE contamination of the groundwater. EPA is addressing the problem through different approaches. EPA organizes sites into Operable Units to make distinct areas of cleanup depending on site issues. The cleanup is divided into three portions or operable units (OUs)³.

- OU-1 = Carbon treatment units on residential wells**

Where necessary, residential drinking water is being treated with carbon filtration systems. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) is maintaining and monitoring the residential drinking water systems.



- OU-2 = Cleanup of groundwater contamination and soils**

The groundwater from the Valley Plume is being extracted and treated by an air stripper that is successfully removing TCE contamination. The treatment plant is also preventing the groundwater plume from spreading.



- OU-3 = Vapor intrusion mitigation**

Where necessary, vapor intrusion caused by groundwater contamination is being treated with residential vapor intrusion systems. PADEP is also maintaining and monitoring the vapor intrusion systems.



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For more information,
visit the EPA's Crossley Farm
webpage or scan the QR code.

www.epa.gov/superfund/crossley

