

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant Fridley, Minnesota

On September 17, 2018, the EPA deleted a portion of the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) site located in Fridley, Minnesota. This partial deletion pertains to operable unit (OU) 3, which includes all the unsaturated soils underlying the former Plating Shop Area.

The site is located in the northern portion of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area in an industrial/commercial area within Fridley, Minnesota. The site includes soils that have been contaminated as a result of the production of advanced weapons and disposal activities. The US Navy and/or its contractors produced advanced weapons systems beginning in 1940. During the early 1970s, paint sludges and chlorinated solvents were disposed of in pits and trenches in the North 40 area. The North 40 area is an undeveloped area of the site immediately north of the main facility building. In the early 1980s, contaminant sources in the North 40 area and beneath the NIROP building were identified and trichloroethylene (TCE) was discovered in on-site ground water wells and in the city of Minneapolis drinking water treatment plant intake pipe, located in the Mississippi River less than one mile downstream of the site.

From November 1983 to March 1984, approximately 1,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil and 43 55-gallon drums were excavated and disposed of off-site. The site was placed on the NPL in 1989. The EPA divided the NIROP site into three OUs. OU3 originally included all saturated and unsaturated soil under the main NIROP manufacturing building, excluding the extreme southern portion of the building; and all saturated soil under and outside the main NIROP manufacturing building, within the legal boundaries of the site. In 2013, the scope of OU3 was limited to unsaturated soil under the former Plating Shop Area. The remaining saturated soils were grouped with OU1 and the remaining unsaturated soils were addressed as part of OU2.

In April 1995, the US Navy collected soil and groundwater samples from OU3 and detected elevated levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and metals, including chromium. The EPA, MPCA, and US Navy issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for OU3 on September 13, 2003. The selected remedy for OU3 included engineering controls (ECs) and institutional controls (ICs) designed to: 1) restrict the use of the property to industrial or restricted commercial use until concentrations of hazardous substances have been reduced; 2) prohibit the disturbance of soils without written approval of the EPA and MPCA; and 3) ensure that the concrete pit floor remains in place to serve as an EC. On July 19, 2017, an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) was issued removing the second and third components of the original OU3 remedy.

The NIROP site is being redeveloped into a commercial office/warehouse complex consistent with the Land Use Designation for the site. A developer has enrolled the site into MPCA's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) program.

The EPA and the state of Minnesota, through the MPCA, have determined that all appropriate response actions under CERCLA at OU3, other than operation, maintenance and five-year reviews, have been completed. Therefore, the EPA is deleting OU3 from the NPL.