

Site Redevelopment Profile

Sharon Steel Corp. (Fairmont Coke Works) Superfund Site

Lafayette Street, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Property Overview

Size

97 acres

Current Site Uses

- The West Virginia State Police Troop 1 Headquarters is located on site.
- About 50 additional acres on site are currently available for redevelopment.

Use Restrictions

- Residential uses and potable groundwater use are prohibited.
- Buildings on part of the site must be constructed with vapor control measures.

Surrounding Population

2,692

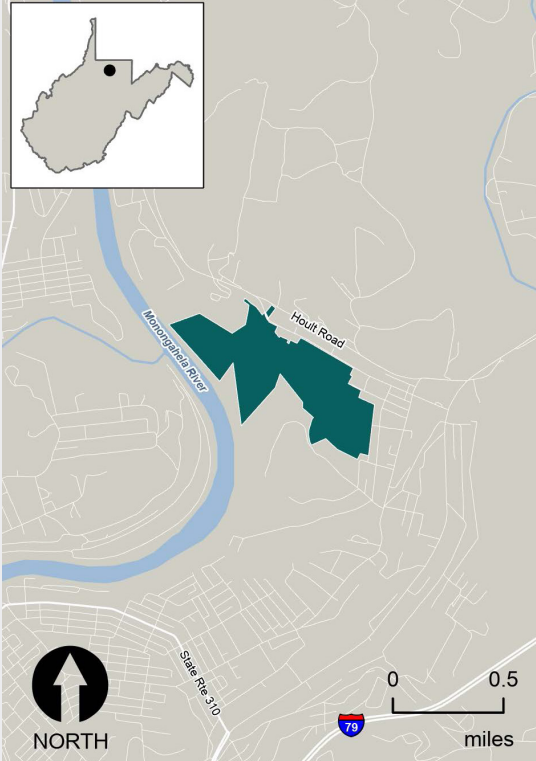
1 MILE

22,357

3 MILES

35,425

5 MILES



A map of the site in West Virginia.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1918 - 1948

Domestic Coke Corporation purchased site property and operated a coke byproduct facility on site.

1948 - 1979

Sharon Steel Corporation operated the facility until its closure.

1993 - 1996

Emergency removal action by EPA stabilized the site.

1996

EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List.

1998

Green Bluff Development, an ExxonMobil subsidiary, purchased the site to facilitate cleanup.

1999

Site parties entered into Project XL Agreement.

2003 - 2011

ExxonMobil conducted additional cleanup activities as part of a non-time-critical removal action.

2004

Green Bluff Development transferred site ownership to the Fairmont Coke Works Site Custodial Trust.

2017

EPA selected the site's long-term remedy.

2018

EPA Region 3 recognized the project's reuse leadership with its Excellence in Site Reuse Award. The site's long-term cleanup is ongoing.

History and Cleanup

The 97-acre Sharon Steel Corp. (Fairmont Coke Works) Superfund site is located in a mixed-use area in Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia. Prior to 1973, coke production, waste treatment and waste disposal operations took place on site. These operations resulted in soil, surface water and groundwater contamination.

To stabilize the site, an emergency removal action by EPA removed chemical containers, tanks and buildings, disposed of contaminated oil, and treated contaminated water. EPA then added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 1996. During a second removal action, ExxonMobil, the site's potentially responsible party (PRP), dug up waste materials and contaminated soils. Recycled high British Thermal Unit wastes excavated from on-site landfills were processed into a synthetic coal product used to generate more than 527,000 megawatts of electricity – enough to power more than 42,000 typical West Virginian homes for one year. EPA selected the site's final remedy in December 2017. It includes limited groundwater treatment and monitoring, wetlands restoration, and institutional controls to limit site uses and restrict groundwater use. Implementation of the site's long-term remedy is ongoing.



An access road located on site.

Redevelopment

EPA has worked closely with the community and the site's PRP to support redevelopment opportunities at the site. In May 1999, ExxonMobil, EPA, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and local stakeholders, including the city of Fairmont, entered into a Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) Agreement.

EPA's Project XL Program was a national pilot program developed to test innovative environmental management strategies to achieve better and more cost-effective environmental and public health protections. The project at the site focused on aligning cleanup and reuse priorities. As part of the agreement, ExxonMobil agreed to undertake beneficial restorative actions that were beyond EPA's authority to require. In return, EPA agreed to provide regulatory flexibility within its discretion rather than strict adherence to the traditional Superfund process.

The site's Project XL Agreement resulted in significant community engagement to determine the most appropriate future use for the site property. These efforts included discussions with a Community Liaison Panel and subcommittees focused on property redevelopment. The community's reuse priorities for the site included public service, commercial, industrial and recreational uses. The locality then updated its zoning ordinance to reflect these priorities.



West Virginia State Police Troop 1 Headquarters located on site.



EPA Region 3 Administrator, Cosmo Servidio, presents Dick Forren of Enso Properties with the Excellence in Site Reuse Award. Left to right: Tom Mainella, city of Fairmont Mayor; Eric Newman, EPA Region 3 Remedial Project Manager; Cosmo Servidio, EPA Region 3 Administrator; Austin Caperton, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; and Dick Forren, Enso Properties, LLC.

Ownership of the site was then conveyed to the Fairmont Coke Works Site Custodial Trust (FCT) to promote and facilitate its beneficial reuse. The state of West Virginia is the Trustee for the FCT. The first redevelopment project at the site, a troop headquarters for the West Virginia State Police, finished in April 2017. The 3-acre facility is located on the southern portion of the site and includes a vehicle maintenance garage and a communications tower for the police on the site.

Looking forward, the state of West Virginia continues to work closely with the city of Fairmont and other local officials on opportunities to return other parts of the site property to productive use in a manner that fits well with community priorities.

In June 2018, EPA Region 3 recognized Enso Properties, LLC and ExxonMobil with its Excellence in Site Reuse Award. Region 3 established the Excellence in Site Reuse Award for those who have supported the reuse of Superfund sites through outstanding efforts that go above and beyond required cleanup.

“ExxonMobil Corporation and Enso Properties have worked aggressively to convert a formerly contaminated 97-acre site into property that is productive again for the community and ripe for more redevelopment.”

Cosmo Servidio
EPA Region 3 Administrator

For more information see: www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment

Contacts

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