

Ellis Property Superfund Site Evesham Township, New Jersey

Site Description

[Ellis Property](#) is a 36-acre site located in Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. The site's surrounding area is generally characterized by residential, agricultural and light industrial land uses.

This property was originally a dairy farm until Irving Ellis acquired it in 1968. Approximately four of the 36 acres were used in drum reconditioning operations—drums were rinsed and resold. Surficial spills and discharges associated with drum reconditioning and chemical storage are believed to have contributed to soil and groundwater contamination at the site.

Operations ceased in the late 1970s following a fire. However, drum storage continued into the 1980s. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 1983. The land is currently vacant, undeveloped and overgrown with weeds. Area residents are on the public water supply.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- The original record of decision in 1992 addressed soil and groundwater contamination. The remedy included excavation and off-site disposal of soils contaminated by metals and polychlorinated biphenyls, and construction of a groundwater collection and treatment system to address volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination.
- A total of 1,400 cubic yards of excavated soils were disposed of at an approved off-site facility. Excavations were backfilled with clean fill that was tested prior to being brought on site. All these excavations were performed above the water table, and all work was completed by 1998.
- Construction of the groundwater collection and treatment system began in September 1999 and was completed in June 2000. The system was determined to be operational and functional in August 2000.
- While the response actions taken to date have eliminated drums and large areas of contaminated soil, residual trichloroethylene (TCE) has been consistently identified in monitoring wells in localized areas of the shallow aquifer. TCE and other VOCs later found in groundwater were not identified as soil contaminants at the time of the original record of decision because they were not detected at significant concentrations.
- In 2006, EPA performed a remediation system evaluation of site operations. The evaluation found that the extraction wells were located in low-permeability soil formations. It also identified a sand channel on the northern part of the site which was believed to limit the effectiveness of the northern portion of the collection trench in adequately intercepting contamination. Consequently, a cutoff wall was installed in 2012 to isolate the contaminated groundwater from the sand channel and direct it to the collection trench.
- The 2006 evaluation also suggested conducting additional site investigation activities to determine if dense nonaqueous-phase liquids (DNAPLs) were present at the site. In 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection conducted a pre-design investigation to further delineate the residual source(s) and extent of soil and groundwater contamination, evaluate the presence of DNAPLs, and assess potential changes to the groundwater remedy.
- New Jersey's 2007 investigation identified a source of VOC contamination (primarily TCE) in the subsurface soils at the site. These VOCs are contributing to groundwater contamination and are preventing the groundwater collection and treatment system from restoring the aquifer. Currently there are no buildings located above the contaminated groundwater plume.
- In September 2013, EPA issued an amendment to the record of decision that included excavation and in-situ treatment to address TCE source and residual contamination in the soil, and operation of the collection and treatment system for at least one year.
- In November 2013, EPA initiated the remedial design under an interagency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The remedial design was completed in September 2015.

Unfunded Action

The unfunded fiscal year 2016 work includes excavation and in-situ treatment to address the TCE source and residual contamination in the soil.

Funding Status

To date, EPA has spent approximately \$8.7 million for construction work at the site.

April 2017