

Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending



Tar Lake Superfund Site Mancelona, Michigan

Site Description

The [Tar Lake](#) site is in Mancelona Township, Michigan, in the northwestern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The site is the former location of the Antrim Iron Works manufacturing facility, whose past practice of disposing of tar wastes into a four-acre dry pond now known as Tar Lake led to the site's soil and groundwater contamination.

EPA placed the Tar Lake site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. In 2005 and 2012, EPA deleted large portions of the site from the NPL; these deleted site areas are now available for redevelopment.

The Tar Lake site is divided into two operable units (OUs): OU1 is the tar source material comprising one area and OU2 consists of the remainder of the site, including contaminated groundwater, residual source material and soil contamination. The site's contaminants of concern include methylphenols and polyaromatic hydrocarbons in soil, and methylphenol and volatile organic compounds, such as benzene, in groundwater.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- After issuing a record of decision (ROD) in 1992, EPA conducted a removal action in 1998-1999 to address the OU1 tar source material. The action cost approximately \$3 million and entailed removal and disposal of more than 47,000 tons of tar and tar-contaminated debris. Also, in 1998 the state of Michigan installed and operated an on-site biosparge groundwater treatment system and connected residents to municipal water in 2002.
- EPA issued a ROD in 2002 to address OU2 contaminants. The Agency amended the ROD in 2004. The amended remedy consisted of excavation and disposal of tar and tar-contaminated soil as well as installation of the biosparge groundwater treatment system and connection of residents to the municipal water supply. In 2004, EPA removed and disposed of an additional 21,000 tons of contaminated soil from below the formerly excavated tar area and 225 tons of tar and creosote waste from another area of the site. The construction and subsequent monitoring work have cost about \$3 million to date.
- In 2013, EPA issued an explanation of significant differences (ESD) to expand the biosparge system and to excavate additional tar waste and contaminated soil. The remedial design for these ESD remedy changes was completed in December 2018.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2019

This work consists of installation of 28 new biosparge wells and excavation and disposal of more than 220,000 tons of contaminated soil and tar source material. in addition to the soil and source material previously addressed.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2019

EPA has provided approximately \$15 million for cleanup activities at the site.