

Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending



Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation Superfund Site Fairfield, New Jersey

Site Description

The [Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation](#) site is an approximately 1-acre property located in the Township of Fairfield, Essex County, New Jersey. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 2014. In addition to the site, contamination affects three adjacent properties, which are located in a primarily commercial/industrial area with residential subdivisions located approximately 800 feet to the northeast. Site surface water runs off and drains toward a residential subdivision and to Deepavaal Brook, which flows to the Passaic River.

The Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation operated an aluminum die cast manufacturing process from 1955 to 2001. The process involved injecting molten aluminum into oil-lubricated molds. The oil was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCB-contaminated wastewater discharges, as well as potential air discharges, led to PCB contamination of the soil, groundwater and the site's three adjacent properties. One of these, the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) property, contains two drinking water pipes, which supply drinking water to more than 300,000 people living in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The cleanup was divided into two operable units (OUs). The first, OU1, addresses the on-site building and the contaminated soils located at the site and three adjacent properties, while OU2 addresses the groundwater contamination and downgradient soil, sediment and surface water contamination.

Currently, both the site building and property are vacant. The city has expressed an interest in the site's immediate redevelopment upon the cleanup's completion.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- The 2016 OU1 record of decision (ROD) addressed the building's demolition, excavation of the PCB- and pesticide- contaminated soil, and off-site disposal of the building debris and excavated soils. The site is to be backfilled with clean soil.
- In November 2016, EPA initiated the OU1 cleanup action's remedial design under an interagency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. EPA completed the OU1 design in February 2020.
- The OU2 remedial investigation/feasibility study, was completed in 2020, and it fully characterized the nature and extent of groundwater contamination, and potential downgradient contamination of the surface water, soil, and sediment in the nearby residential subdivisions and Deepavaal Brook.
- In September 2020, EPA issued the OU2 ROD to address the PCBs contaminated groundwater and PCBs contamination found in the sediment. The selected remedy includes institutional controls and long-term monitoring for the contaminated groundwater and full excavation and off-site disposal of the contaminated sediment. The excavated areas would be backfilled and restored. The remedial design needed to implement OU2 is expected to begin in 2021.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2020

The work includes the implementation of the OU1 remedial action, including demolition of the on-site building, excavation of the contaminated soils, and site restoration. Soil excavation will remove the groundwater contamination's main source and will prevent the site's contaminated surface water downgradient migration. Institutional controls will be implemented to ensure that future land use is consistent with the OU1 ROD.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2020

EPA has provided approximately \$5 million for cleanup activities at the site.