

Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending



Velsicol Burn Pit Superfund Site St. Louis, Michigan

Site Description

The five-acre [Velsicol Burn Pit](#) (VBP) site in St. Louis, Michigan, is located about 1,000 feet northwest of the Pine River and is within the boundary of the Hidden Oaks Golf Course and across the river from the separate Velsicol Chemical Superfund site. The Velsicol Chemical Corporation previously operated the VBP site as an off-site disposal area. The corporation burned its industrial solid and liquid wastes for volume reduction or other disposal purposes at the site. Solid waste from the city of St. Louis, Michigan, was also burned at this location. According to records, liquid waste was burned weekly in an open pit.

EPA initially proposed the VBP site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in the early 1980s. Prior to the site's final NPL listing, Velsicol Chemical Corporation excavated approximately 68,000 cubic yards of VBP material and disposed of it at the Velsicol Chemical plant property in accordance with a 1982 consent judgment. Thereafter, the VBP was considered to be part of the Velsicol Chemical Corporation Superfund site. During the Velsicol Chemical Corporation site's remedial investigation, a large amount of residual contamination was discovered at the VBP site, resulting in EPA's re-evaluation and placement of VBP on the NPL as a separate Superfund site in March 2010.

EPA has divided the VBP into two operable units (OUs): OU1 is associated with waste material within the former burn pit boundaries, and OU2 is associated with groundwater.

The major contaminants of concern include non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) consisting of high concentrations of 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, chlorobenzene, lindane and benzene. Groundwater data, to date, do not show large-scale contamination.

Velsicol Chemical Corporation filed for bankruptcy in 1999 and all work at the two sites is government funded.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- In 2015, EPA selected three remedial components for VBP site OU1, including in-situ thermal treatment to address NAPL, a principal threat waste; hooking up nine residences to the municipal water supply as a precautionary measure; and excavating on-site ash piles and disposing of the material off site. The remedial designs for each of the three components are complete.
- EPA will begin a remedial investigation at OU2 once the OU1 remedies are completed to allow for the evaluation of groundwater contaminant levels following the removal and treatment of the source material.

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

This work includes site preparation for in-situ thermal treatment and the removal of ash piles, operation of treatment system, and hooking up nine residences to the municipal drinking water supply.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2020

EPA has provided approximately \$1.6 million for cleanup activities the site.