

Site Redevelopment Profile

W.R. Grace & Co., Inc. (Acton Plant) Superfund Site

50 Independence Road, Acton and Concord, Massachusetts 01720

Property Overview

Size

260 acres

Current Site Uses

- A 4.5-megawatt solar array on part of the site supplies 4.5 percent of the town's power supply needs, enough to power 625 homes.
- Planning is underway for a school bus depot and a wastewater treatment facility on site.

Use Restrictions

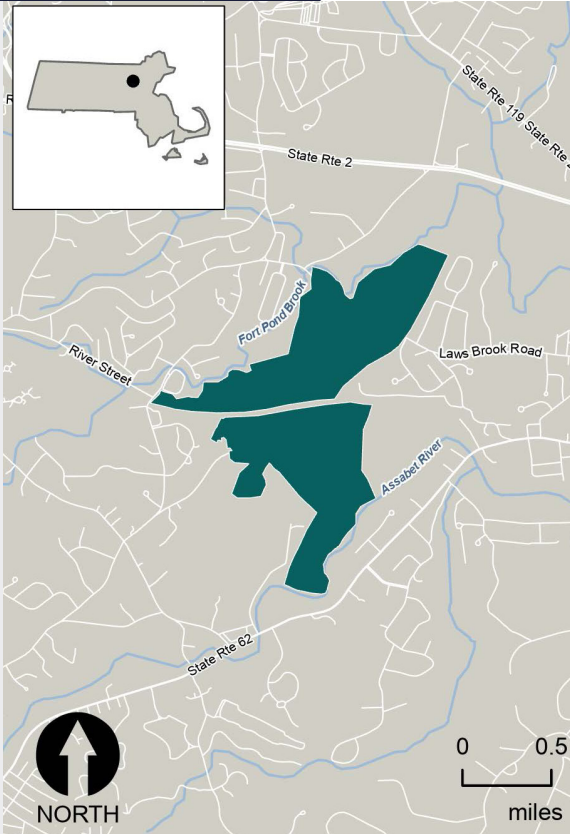
- A Deed Notice ensures continued maintenance of the remedy and protects the landfill cap.

Surrounding Population

4,047
1 MILE

38,613
3 MILES

69,191
5 MILES



A map of the site in Massachusetts.

Aerial view of the solar array on site.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1945-1991

Operators, including W.R. Grace, make chemicals at the site.

1980

W.R. Grace signs agreement with EPA to clean up the site.

1983

EPA places the site on the National Priorities List.

1989

EPA selects remedy for source control.

2005

EPA works with site stakeholders to conduct site redevelopment assessment.

EPA selects remedy for groundwater, sediment and surface water.

2012

EPA completes cleanup at the site.

2016

The town of Concord takes ownership of 70-acre parcel at the site.

2017

The town of Concord completes a 4.5-megawatt solar array, the first phase of the town's redevelopment of the site.

History and Cleanup

Communities nationwide are working hard to revitalize former industrial lands, recognizing that these sometimes neglected areas can once again provide vital services and address local priorities. In Massachusetts, leadership by the town of Concord has resulted in construction of a 4.5-megawatt solar array at the W.R. Grace & Co., Inc. (Acton Plant) Superfund site. Future plans call for a school bus depot and a wastewater treatment plant at the site.

American Cyanamid Company and the Dewey & Almy Chemical Company made sealant and other products at this 260-acre area starting in 1945. In 1954, W.R. Grace acquired the property. The company made concrete, sealants and other industrial products on site until 1991. Facility activities led to widespread soil, sediment and groundwater contamination.

W.R. Grace signed a Consent Decree with EPA in 1980 to clean up waste disposal areas and restore groundwater quality. EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 1983. The remedy included groundwater treatment, extensive monitoring, sediment removal and off-site disposal, wetlands restoration, soil excavation and disposal in an existing landfill on site, landfill stabilization and capping, landfill gas treatment, and perimeter fencing. Groundwater treatment is ongoing.

The project illustrates how local governments and citizens can play a leading role in Superfund redevelopment. It also highlights how Superfund sites can host several reuses that address multiple community needs. Looking forward, the town of Concord has built a strong foundation for maximizing community-wide benefits from the area's once-contaminated industrial lands.



The site's groundwater treatment facility.



The solar array on site offsets the town's peak demand for electricity by 10 percent.

Redevelopment

An EPA-funded redevelopment assessment in 2005 helped local stakeholders identify key redevelopment considerations for the site for the first time. The town of Concord then developed a three-phase redevelopment plan. When the site's remedy was in place, the town moved forward with phase one, acquiring 70 acres of the site and installing a solar array. Construction of the array, which has 15,000 panels and produces 4.5 megawatts of power, finished in 2017. The array supplies the town with 4.5 percent of its annual power needs and powers the equivalent of 625 homes.

The project's second phase – a school bus depot – is up next. The depot will be powered by the solar array, with surplus power fed into the town's energy grid. The third phase will focus on construction of a wastewater treatment facility on site.

Contacts

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