

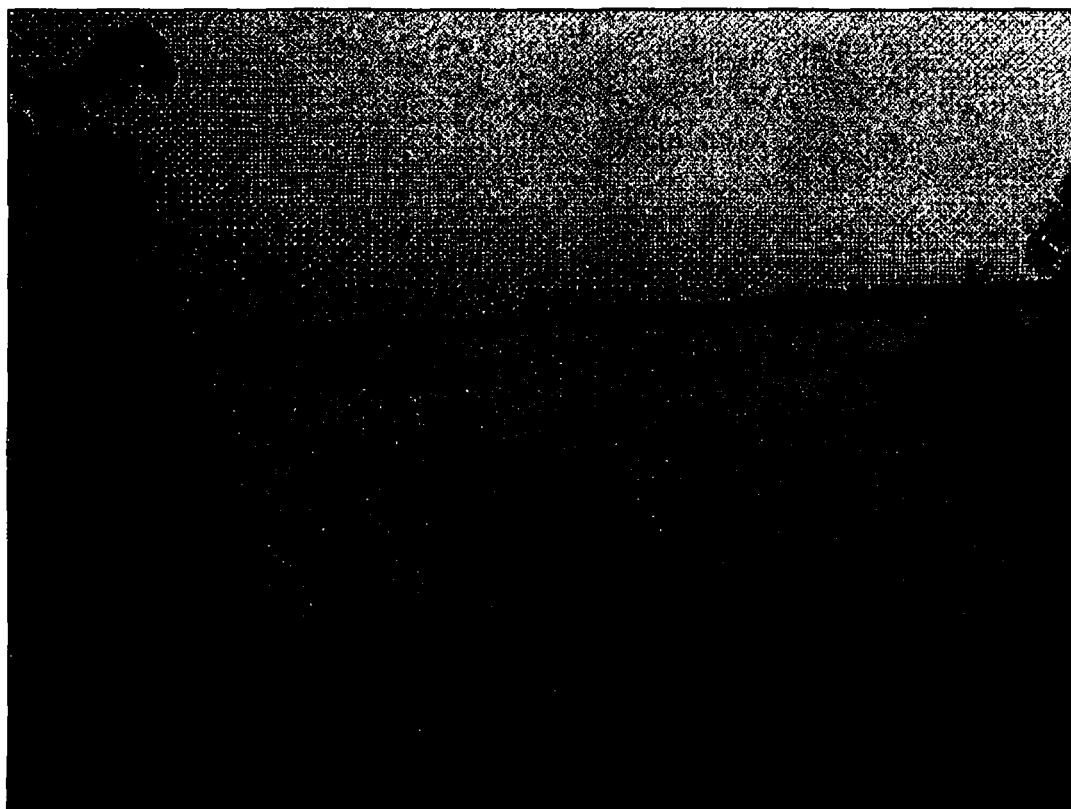
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

*EASTERN SURPLUS COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE
MEDDYBEMPS, MAINE*

U.S. EPA Region I, New England

*Eastern Surplus
13.2*

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Acronyms

CERCLA Act	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERCS	Emergency Response Cleanup Services
FIT	Field Investigation Team
HRS	Hazard Ranking System
LMA	Lake Meddybemps Association
MEDEP	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
MEDFW	Maine Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
NPL	National Priorities List
PAHs	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
ROD	Record of Decision
U.S. DOD	United States Department of Defense
U.S. FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds

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A. OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The purpose of this community relations plan (CRP) is to describe and explain EPA's strategies to address the needs and concerns of Meddybemps residents affected by the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site, and is designed to involve affected residents, town officials, and local environmental groups in decision-making regarding the cleanup and monitoring of a site. This plan outlines community involvement and outreach activities conducted during the site **remedial investigation** and **feasibility study (RI/FS)**¹, currently underway at Eastern Surplus.

Town officials and active Meddybemps residents are essential resources for the success of this plan because they have a comprehensive understanding of the Meddybemps area and hold visible positions of responsibility within the community. They are considered key points of contact to communicate with all residents in the Meddybemps community. The successful cleanup of the Eastern site hinges on informed citizen involvement in each step of the Superfund process.

The U.S. EPA Region I, New England, in Boston, is primarily responsible for planning the Eastern Surplus site cleanup and implementing community relations plans related to site activities. Next, a description of the Eastern Surplus property is presented.

B. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Eastern Surplus property encompasses approximately three acres near the center of the town of Meddybemps, Washington County, Maine. The site is bordered to the north by Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River to the east, Route 191 to the south, and Stone Road to the west. An army surplus and salvage item retailer, Harry J. Smith, Senior, owned and managed Eastern Surplus Company from 1946 to the early 1980's. Mr. Smith also generated hydroelectric power from the Dennys River until approximately 1976. Previous to 1946, the property was used for timber processing. The now inactive site is owned by Henry Smith, Jr., who also owns and operates an active salvage business about 2 miles west of the site on Route 191.

The Eastern Surplus property was used to store various items including scrap metal, miscellaneous military personnel equipment (clothing, canteens, helmets), old ammunition (20 mm shells), junk cars, trucks, busses, home appliances, 650-700 fifty-five gallon drums, 1500-2000 compressed gas cylinders of various sizes, 140 transformers, hundreds of small (5-10 gal.) containers holding a variety of hazardous materials, and miscellaneous debris.

¹The RI/FS is a phase of the Superfund process where EPA conducts numerous studies into the nature and extent of contamination at a site. Definitions of technical terms that are bold-faced in the text can be found in the glossary.

The site was originally inspected in October 1985 by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP). During this inspection, MEDEP identified chemical odors, leaking electrical transformers, hundreds of deteriorating drums and containers, compressed gas cylinders, 16,000 pounds of calcium carbide, and numerous areas of stained soil. As a result of these findings, MEDEP initiated an immediate emergency clean-up, in which they removed hazardous materials, and erected a fence to secure the property.

Source sampling arranged by MEDEP and EPA between November 1985 and August 1990 identified over fifty different hazardous materials on the site, including **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**, chlorinated organic compounds (solvents), heavy metals, acids, paints, oils, asbestos, and pesticides. Soil, groundwater, and sediment samples collected by the EPA between 1987 and 1988 show that many of these contaminants were released into the environment.

Contamination from the Eastern Surplus Site threatens Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River. The lake and river are used as important resources (e.g., fishing, recreation) by permanent and seasonal residents. The Dennys River is less accessible than the lake and, therefore, used less frequently by local residents. Both water bodies support active fisheries and spawning areas; a National Wildlife Refuge; and, habitat for the threatened bald eagle. Additionally, drinking water supplies from private wells within a four mile radius of the site are threatened by contamination from the site for an estimated 200 people.

The EPA assessed the status of the Eastern Surplus Company property as a Superfund site based on a ranking system called: the **Hazard Ranking System (HRS)**. The HRS score for the site was calculated based on threats posed by contamination to adjacent surface water bodies. The HRS was also calculated in consideration of threats posed by the site to sensitive environments, fisheries, and wetlands dependent on or hydrologically connected to affected surface water. After reviewing all surface water pathways it was determined that the air, soil exposure, and groundwater pathways would not contribute significantly to the overall HRS score. Therefore, those pathways were not included in the HRS assessment.

In addition to the Eastern Surplus Site, two hazardous waste sites are located in Meddybemps. The Smith Junkyard Site is approximately two miles from the Eastern Site on Route 191. The surface water migration pathway for the Smith Site flows into the Dennys River, over three miles downstream from the Eastern Surplus Site and its sample locations showing the presence of contaminants. The other site, the Green Hill Quarry, has only two contaminants; PCBs and chlorinated solvents. Green Hill's surface water travels overland approximately one mile to a stream that flows into Meddybemps Lake, and enters it over two miles upstream from Green Hill Quarry.

The success of long-term cleanups at Superfund sites hinges on the quality and thoroughness of initial site inspections, studies and short-term cleanup actions. The next section describes the history of these activities at the Eastern Surplus site.

History of Site Inspections, Removals, and Studies

Inspections and Removals

The first MEDEP investigations and soil samples of the Eastern Surplus Company property indicated that an immediate removal of hazardous materials was required due to significant risks posed by those materials to public health and the environment. The removal of contaminants and hazardous materials from the property took place in multiple phases, beginning with the first phase in December 1986. The removal action was extremely complex due to the large variety of contaminants and hazardous materials and/or substances present on the property. The planned phases of the project overlapped during removal activities due to a lack of capacity at offsite disposal facilities to accept various kinds of hazardous materials and/or substances.

During the first phase of the removal, a preliminary inspection of the property was conducted and the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor was sent to the site to overpack deteriorated drums. The harsh winters of the Meddybemps area inhibited normal removal activities. In spite of the weather, the imminent threat of leaking and deteriorating 55-gallon drums on the site prompted ERCS to remove the drums.

The second phase of the removal occurred during the months of May and June 1987. The site contained a large volume of non-hazardous debris. Some of the debris had to be removed from the site in order to make room for work and staging areas. Fifty-five gallon drums, five gallon cans, and containers smaller than five gallons were identified, segregated, staged, evaluated and sampled where necessary. Samples from these materials were shipped offsite for analysis and information on the containers was documented. The site was also videotaped to further document the site inventory.

In addition, residential drinking wells within one-half mile of the site were sampled and tested for the presence of **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**; contaminants comprised of solvents, degreasers, paints, thinners and fuels that easily evaporate. All of the residential wells were clean, with the exception of one well that had detectable low levels of VOCs. In November 1987, MEDEP discovered that several waste streams were limited in volume and had to be resampled for disposal analysis and approval. In addition, new materials found in a building adjacent to the site by MEDEP were sampled.

The third phase of removal activities occurred between the months of April and June

1988. Many of the wastes were shipped offsite for disposal, including asbestos. A trailer loaded with calcium carbide was returned to the original manufacturer. In addition, laboratory packages for the small containers were prepared and shipped offsite for disposal. Unknown laboratory and small containers were consolidated and opened, and samples were obtained for analysis to determine the suitability of these substances for various disposal methods. During this phase, EPA's Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted a preremedial investigation of the site, which included drilling of several monitoring wells and obtaining surface soil samples.

From July to December 1988, the United States Department of Defense (U.S. DOD), a responsible party, conducted the fourth phase of the removal action. During this phase, all compressed gas cylinders of government origin were identified and any contained gases were properly disposed of or treated. Depending on the nature of the contained gas, it was either vented to the atmosphere, incinerated, neutralized, or explosively vented and incinerated. EPA attempted to identify all parties responsible for full commercial compressed gas cylinders found on the site. The empty remains of compressed gas cylinders of government origin were shipped offsite to a government installation while empty commercially-owned compressed gas cylinders remained onsite at the end of this phase.

During phase four, drinking water wells within one-half mile of the Site were sampled again and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In December 1988, the ERCS contractor mobilized to the site to dispose of several more waste streams and secured the site for the winter. Several waste streams remained on the site awaiting disposal at pre-approved disposal facilities. The eight compressed gas cylinders remaining were manufactured by the Matheson Gas Company. On October 5 and 6, 1989, Matheson Gas in cooperation with U.S. EPA, shipped seven compressed gas cylinders offsite for treatment and one shock-sensitive cylinder containing nitric oxide was explosively opened and vented onsite.

The fifth and final phase of the removal action included a thorough identification, sampling, and treatment of hazardous materials and/or substances, as deemed appropriate. Hazardous materials inventoried included:

- 312 55-gallon drums
- 24 30-gallon cans (identifiable markings)
- 629 5-gallon cans (identifiable markings)
- 597 5-gallon cans (no identifiable markings)
- 168 100-pound containers of calcium carbide
- 1,082 (approximation) containers less than 5 gallons (identifiable markings)
- 100 (approximation) containers less than 5 gallons (no identifiable markings)
- 10 cubic yards (approximation) of asbestos
- 2, 674 compressed gas cylinders, 569 of which still contained gases

The completion of the initial removal action in 1990 effectively eliminated immediate threats from the Eastern Surplus Company site to public health and the environment.

National Priorities List (NPL) Designation and Remedial Investigation

The Eastern Surplus Company was proposed for the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in October 1995, making it eligible for long term evaluation and cleanup. The site was officially listed on the NPL in June 1996. The EPA maintains a list of Superfund sites nationwide. There are currently 1,270 sites in existence.

Remedial Investigation

As discussed in the previous section, from 1988-1996 EPA and MEDEP performed an evaluation of the Eastern Surplus site to determine if additional studies were needed. Although most of the immediate hazardous materials were removed, both agencies were concerned about the impact of remaining site contamination on the quality of area groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil. As a result, in Fall 1996, EPA began evaluating the site in four phases to determine the extent of remaining contamination and threats to public health and the environment:

Phase I: Sample residential wells, existing monitoring wells, and surface soils.

Phase II: Sample surface water and sediments of Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River.

Phase III: Investigate surface soil and below surface soil extensively.

Phase IV: Install and sample monitoring wells at the site.

All of the initial field work associated with the four phases was completed by February 1997. The results of residential well sampling indicated no contamination detected in any of the residential wells. The sediment/surface water results indicated only a few sediment locations that contained **polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)** or **Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)**.

The groundwater results indicated a very limited area of contamination. Nine of the twenty-four wells sampled contained detectable levels of VOCs. However, only four wells contained VOC levels above public drinking water standards.

Results of the onsite soil samples analysis indicated no significant levels of contamination. However, there was one "hot spot" on the site that contained elevated levels of VOCs, chromium, antimony, and lead. This area was identified as a potential soil hot spot during the onsite soil screening program.

Presented next are Meddybemps residents' perceptions of EPA and MEDEP's involvement in the Eastern Surplus site cleanup and effectiveness of community

outreach activities. This section also describes actions taken by the agencies to address concerns voiced by Meddybemps residents. First, the Meddybemps community is described, presenting a brief history of the area and the culture. Then, a chronology of community involvement in site activities is provided.

C. MEDDYBEMPS COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

(1) Meddybemps Community Profile

Since the early nineteenth century, Meddybemps has remained a small, close-knit community; quiet in its rural setting and inviting to its seasonal guests. Its permanent, intergenerational population reflects an historical and intimate dependency on local natural resources. The first settlers of Meddybemps arrived in 1812 and discovered rich stocks of salmon and trout in the Dennys River, and deer and partridge in the vast surrounding forests. Smallmouth bass introduced in the Bellgrade Region in 1869 and somewhat later to Washington County, became the leading game fish in Meddybemps Lake (Ketchen 1988). These natural resources, along with the scenic beauty and quietude of the Meddybemps environment, constitute the foundation of the local economy. Summer homes and seasonal industries (e.g. fishing, boating, camping, etc.), attracted to the region for its rich stocks of game, adventure, and scenic wonder, contribute considerably to the Meddybemps economy.

Unfortunately, the potential effects of contamination from the Eastern Surplus site threaten local drinking water supplies, fish populations, wildlife species such as the bald eagle, and seasonal recreation activities. Local wildlife and human residents rely on the water quality of Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River, which also support the nearby Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. An estimated 200 people use private wells located within a 4-mile radius of the property. In addition, the visual effects of the site's accumulated drums, containers, and other surplus items are perceived by local and seasonal residents as an "eye sore" to what used to be a "beautiful site."

The next section presents actions Meddybemps residents have taken to address the Eastern Surplus site and become involved in site activities performed by EPA and MEDEP. This section continues with descriptions of community perceptions of Agency activities at the site.

(2) Meddybemps Community Involvement and Community Perception of Site Activities

Initial reactions by local residents to the site centered around concerns about public drinking water supplies (private wells), the water quality of Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River, and the impact of the site on the area's scenic beauty. One group of concerned residents, The Lake Meddybemps Association (LMA), a group comprised of

local and seasonal residents, has been particularly involved in site activities.

The LMA publishes a yearly newsletter that covers a wide spectrum of natural resources issues; especially related to the protection of Lake Meddybemps. The last two newsletters included updates and reports on Eastern Surplus site activities. Conveyed in these newsletters is the perception of EPA and MEDEP work as heavily constrained by budget cuts, low staff, and inefficient use of tax dollars for site cleanups. However, LMA has worked closely with EPA Remedial Project Manager, Ed Hathaway, to voice public concern, participate in site activities, and provide information and other resources.

In August 1996, Mr. Hathaway; Rebecca Hewett, MEDEP; Steve Mierzykowski, USFWS; and, Rick Jordan, Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, attended the annual LMA picnic, potluck supper, and LMA meeting. This visit provided the agency officials an excellent opportunity to speak with LMA members and Meddybemps residents, and establish a personal with active community members. These officials also presented an overview of the site and plans for near- and long-term cleanup activities.

During this gathering, EPA conducted an informal survey of Meddybemps residents who indicated that they preferred to be involved in site activities during important events and processes, and for purposes of testing and monitoring drinking water wells. Residents wanted to be informed through newsletters, public meetings (for priority activities), and information updates. This survey is discussed in more detail in subsection 3, *Community Concerns*, and provides the foundation upon which EPA has structured this Community Relations Plan.

In response to complaints received from Meddybemps residents about the Eastern Surplus Company property, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection conducted a site visit on October 11, 1985. During this inspection, large volumes of scrap metal, junk cars, old appliances, miscellaneous military personnel equipment, and a variety of hazardous materials and/or substances were found. These materials included compressed gas cylinders, 55 gallon drums, 5 gallon cans, containers less than 5 gallons in size, a trailer full of calcium carbide, electrical transformers and old military ammunition. Soil samples taken near some of the electrical transformers indicated the presence of PCBs. In addition, weather exposure caused many of the containers to deteriorate and, consequently, leak.

As a result of these investigations, MEDEP initiated cleanup activities on December 2, 1985 and the site was designated an Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A., Section 1365 on December 16, 1985. MEDEP ceased removal operations in May 1986 after expending approximately \$370,000. To this point, MEDEP had erected a security fence around the site, removed and disposed 4,650

gallons of waste oils, 2,400 gallons of PCB oils, 117 transformers, arranged for removal of all ammunition on the site, and stabilized leaking containers. Attempts to have the responsible parties finance the cleanup were initially unsuccessful. Consequently, MEDEP requested Federal assistance to clean up the remainder of the site. In 1988, subsequent to their identification as a responsible party, the Department of Defense removed thousands of gas cylinders to further stabilize the site. All removal activities by MEDEP were completed in 1990.

In 1994, after four years of site dormancy, the EPA and MEDEP began to evaluate the site for the National Priorities List. The results of this evaluation determined that the Eastern Surplus Company site was eligible to be listed as a National Priority Site and slated to receive cleanup funding from the Superfund program.

(3) Community Concerns

EPA used a standard questionnaire to gain an understanding of residents' physical proximity to the Eastern site, their concerns associated with the site, information needs, and preferences for getting involved with the investigation and eventual cleanup of the Eastern Surplus property.

The results of the survey and personal conversations between the EPA, Maine DEP, and Meddybemps residents revealed several concerns and issues.

The most prevalent concerns and issues among residents were:

- The site is an "eye sore" to a once beautiful location.
- Contamination from the site may cause cancers and other diseases in surrounding communities.
- Drinking water quality and local natural resources may be jeopardized due to contamination from the site.
- Residents would like to be kept informed about the site plan/activities and timeframe for cleanup, testing, and other significant activities.
- Residents would like to play a role in making decisions about site cleanup.

An issue unrelated to the Eastern Superfund Site, but raised during the survey and informal discussions between EPA and Meddybemps residents, concerned blueberry fields in the area. Residents were curious about the effects of the blueberry fields on local groundwater supplies. In response to public concerns about the site, EPA completed its four stages of air, water and soil testing as part of the site investigation, convened several public meetings and issued up to six community updates to explain sampling results and work timelines for the site, and responded to several personal letters received by EPA from concerned citizens residing in Meddybemps and surrounding communities.

The following is a chronological list, beginning in 1995, of agency response to public concerns voiced in the survey and throughout the site investigation to date:

October 1995: Results of site evaluation since 1990 indicated that Eastern Surplus was eligible for the National Priorities List.

June 1996: Eastern Surplus officially included on NPL.

August: Community update #1

-EPA, MEDEP, USFWS, MEDFW attended LMA annual meeting and community picnic to present site status and plans and answer questions from residents. (Conducted informal survey)

September: Community Update #2 This update presents the timeline for completion of sampling events at the site. The sampling activities are separated into four phases, as discussed above.

Residential Well Survey EPA conducted a survey of Meddybemps residents to obtain physical characteristics of their wells, previous well sampling events, and gauge residents' interests in having their wells sampled. During residential well sampling, Ed Hathaway, EPA remedial project manager, took extra time to speak with residents about site activities and reinforce EPA's role in overseeing site cleanup and protection of affected residents. His outreach efforts to local residents built a foundation of trust between EPA and residents.

Phase 1 Sampling Residential well sampling; surface soil sampling; existing monitoring well sampling; On-Site field screening, sediment and surface water sampling; Site team meeting to review preliminary results and plan for next phases of sampling/site evaluation.

Public Meeting At this meeting, EPA provided information to community residents about the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site, answered questions, and addressed their concerns.

Information repository An information repository was established at the Calais Public Library in Calais, Maine. This repository contains technical documents, updates, general information on the cleanup, and descriptive information about EPA's Superfund program.

October: Residential Survey EPA conducted a survey of Meddybemps residents to assess levels of concerns relating to activities at the site. A

residential well survey was also conducted to obtain information about individual wells and residents' preferences to have their wells sampled by EPA.

Phase II and III Sampling: Surface water and sediments; On-Site screening program; Selected soil sampling locations; USGS started drilling program to prepare for groundwater sampling phase.

Community Update #3: This update announced and briefly explained EPA's completion of 3 out of 5 major activities that were scheduled to occur during 1996.

November: Community Update #4: This update presented results from completion of Phases 1-3 and the initial stages of Phase 4, Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling. A schedule of upcoming events from December 1996-March 1997 was also presented.

USGS Groundwater Drilling: USGS completed drilling to prepare Weston for groundwater sampling and analysis, and low flow sampling of monitoring wells.

December: Groundwater and residential well sampling.

January 1997: Analysis of well and groundwater samples.

February: Data evaluation.

March: Briefed Diane Graettinger of the Bangor Daily News about results of residential well sampling, upcoming field activities and public meeting. Story released in weekend paper of March 22.

Mailed residential well sampling results and letter of explanation to affected residents.

April: Community Update #5: This update presents sampling results from Phases I-IV of Fall 1996 Site investigations. Next steps are outlined and the information repository is announced as well.

USGS installed four additional groundwater monitoring wells to help refine groundwater flow patterns and determine the extent of contamination on Site.

May: Community Update #6: This update announces the June 9, 1997 public

information meeting at Community Hall in Meddybemps. Upcoming site activities, including groundwater, soil, and air sampling are explained.

Quality assessment of Fall 1996 data completed.

State of Maine laboratory tested 10 soil samples for PCB content as part of the well installation program with USGS.

June: Public Meeting, June 9, 1997: This meeting entailed a preliminary review of the results of field investigations that were conducted at the site in Fall 1996. Summer plans for further groundwater, soil, and air sampling were also discussed. At the end of EPA's presentation, a question and answer session was conducted during which Meddybemps residents and other concerned meeting participants voiced concerns and asked questions of EPA.

Other communities potentially impacted by activities at the Eastern Surplus site include the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, located in Princeton, ME. The Passamaquoddy Tribal Governor, John Stevens, was contacted by EPA to update him on activities at the site and discuss possible impacts of the site on the tribe's land. He stated that there does not appear to be a link between contamination at the site and his tribal lands.

D. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

This section summarizes the design for the community relations program at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site and resources available to help the EPA and the Meddybemps community facilitate program goals and objectives. The approaches described are specific to the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site and are based directly on community concerns and issues expressed in the residential survey and informal contact with the EPA and MEDEP.

The community relations program for the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site is designed to:

- facilitate communication among government agencies involved with the Eastern Surplus cleanup;
- present the key concerns of Meddybemps and surrounding residents affected by the site and the agencies' proposed strategies to respond to those concerns;
- facilitate communication between the agencies and the public using direct communication tools (e.g., newsletters; site visits; phone calls; updates; public meetings);
- develop and maintain an open dialogue with the community and the news media

concerning issues of public health and the environment; and
-deliver a consistent message and chronology of site activities and events to the public.

To facilitate effective community involvement in Superfund activities at the Eastern Surplus site, the Lake Meddybemps Association (LMA) plays a leadership role in organizing Meddybemps' seasonal and permanent residents. LMA's annual newsletter and meeting provides a forum through which Superfund issues may be addressed and discussed. Key members of LMA serve as contacts with whom the Agencies communicate to inform and involve affected citizens in site activities. The Meddybemps Community Center is the official location for public meetings and events pertaining to Eastern Surplus site activities.

The specific communication methods and techniques proposed for the Eastern Surplus site are discussed next in Section E.

E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES AND TIMING

This section describes the different kinds of required and recommended community relations activities to be conducted at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site. This section also lists community relations techniques to be conducted should community concerns shift or increase at the Eastern site. Please refer to Appendix D, *Roadmap to Superfund: From Discovery to Cleanup*, which presents the Superfund process sequentially and identifies required community involvement activities during milestone events.

The basic required community involvement activities (in bold) and recommended activities (in italics) include:

Community Interviews As described in Section C, EPA conducted a formal survey of Meddybemps residents and performed informal interviews of residents in conjunction with site investigation activities. The issues and concerns expressed by residents both in the survey and informal interviews provided the basis for this community relations plan.

Community interviews and/or surveys are normally conducted at the outset of the EPA's Remedial Investigation. This technique can and should be repeated at significant junctures in the Superfund process beyond the Remedial Investigation; especially for Superfund sites that have been dormant for many years. Re-interviewing community members is useful in gauging EPA's original interpretation of expressed community concerns and informing EPA of new or emerging concerns that need to be addressed through its community involvement program.

Community Mailing List A mailing list of all affected community members was developed by the agencies for the purposes of sending vital information to residents throughout the cleanup process. This mailing list includes names and addresses of all residents immediately affected by the Eastern Surplus site, state, Federal, and local agency project personnel, media contacts, and pertinent environmental groups.

Community Relations Plan The Community Relations Plan provides citizens with EPA's strategy and rationale for involving Meddybemps and surrounding communities in the decision-making for Eastern Surplus Superfund Site cleanup. The plan is comprehensive, providing a site description, community profile and perceptions of agency response, and a clear design for community relations.

Community Relations Plan Revision This Community Relations Plan will be revised when the Record of Decision (ROD) has been issued. The purpose of this revision is to outline changes to the plan appropriate to the remedial design and cleanup. In order to accurately represent community perceptions and concerns in the revised CRP, EPA could conduct a new set of community interviews in Meddybemps and surrounding communities.

The plan revision should:

- Update facts and verify information in the CRP.
- Assess the community relations program to date and indicate if the same or different approaches will be taken.
- Develop a strategy to prepare the community for future involvement during the design and cleanup.

Fact Sheets and Mailings This technique may be used to address significant events or activities during the Superfund process. Several formats may be used, including: question-and-answer; neighborhood specific fact sheets, such as newsletters; and, technical process descriptions and explanations.

Information Repository The Calais Public Library was designated as the EPA Information Repository for the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site. There, the Reference Desk houses an array of materials pertinent to the site, including: field investigation reports; removal action administrative records; maps of sampling locations in Meddybemps where Eastern Surplus wastes were found; and, screening data. Fact sheets and other educational materials on environmental health are included in the Repository; especially materials relevant to the contamination at the Eastern Surplus site.

In addition, pamphlets and fact sheets about EPA's Technical Assistance Grants are available in the Repository. These grants are available to residents interested in

working with EPA to cleanup the Eastern Surplus site.

The agencies will continue to add information to the repository as site investigations and cleanup processes progress. EPA will also include reports that describe the type and severity of contamination and possible cleanup solutions for the Eastern Surplus site. These reports, along with the proposed cleanup plan that the EPA is recommending, will be available at the Repository for public comment. Upon disclosing the proposed cleanup plan reports, EPA will release a notice to be published in local newspapers such as the *St. Croix Courier*, *Machias Observer*, *Bangor Daily News*, and *Calais Advertiser*.

Community Updates *Community updates are used for the Eastern Surplus site to bring community members and agencies up-to-date on site investigation activities. These updates include descriptions of activities completed, near and long-term plans, timelines for activities completion, responses to significant community concerns and questions, next steps, public meeting announcements, and agency contacts with telephone numbers.*

Open House *Open House is an effective community relations technique to supplement traditional public meetings and community interviews. The purpose of an open house is to provide residents with a personal opportunity to view exhibits and diagrams of site activities and ask questions of agency personnel.*

Press Releases EPA issues press releases to daily and periodical newspapers, and local television and radio stations, to notify Meddybemps and surrounding communities of significant site findings, planned public meetings, and site updates. EPA has worked on several occasions with a reporter at the Bangor Daily News to print stories on activities at the Eastern Surplus site; especially results of residential well sampling in March 1997.

Public Comment Period EPA is required by law to provide the public a 30-day period to submit written and/or oral comments on the proposed cleanup plan for a Superfund Site. The Agency must extend the comment period by an additional 30 days upon timely request. A public meeting must also be held during the comment period to discuss the proposed plan. A transcript of this meeting must be produced and made available to the public and included as part of the administrative record.

Public Meetings Public meetings provide community members with the opportunity to comment on proposed plans, study results, or proposed changes to cleanup plans. EPA and MEDEP have convened one public meeting to explain initial findings on conditions at the Eastern Surplus site and removals of hazardous materials. During this meeting, the agencies discussed a proposed plan to investigate possible contamination from the site. This plan included proposals to sample residential wells, groundwater

and soils for contamination.

Additional public meetings will be held periodically throughout the Remedial Investigation, proposing a cleanup plan, and proposing engineered cleanup designs for the site. These are required public meetings according to CERCLA. However, the agencies can convene a public meeting or open house at any time during the Superfund process at Eastern Surplus if deemed appropriate and useful to involve local residents in decision-making.

Public Notice EPA is required by law to inform the public through a major local newspaper when significant plans and proposals are completed during the Superfund process. These include proposed cleanup plans, approved cleanup option(s), and site deletion.

Responsiveness Summary This document is part of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the formal document that officially explains and certifies a cleanup plan for Eastern Surplus facility. The Responsiveness Summary summarizes public concerns and issues raised during the public comment period on the proposed cleanup plan and other pertinent documents. The Responsiveness Summary formally presents EPA and state responses to community concerns. The ROD and Responsiveness Summary will be available to the public at the Calais Free Library before the official start of site cleanup. In addition, EPA will publish a notice in the *St. Croix Courier, Calais Advertiser, and Machias Observer* when the documents are officially released.

F. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this community relations plan is to explain EPA's strategy to incorporate Meddybemps residents' concerns and needs into the cleanup process at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site. This strategy is based on EPA's direct contact with community members during routine on-site activities and through informal surveys and public meetings.

This plan will be revised as changes occur at the site; especially after the Record of Decision has been signed, which announces the final site cleanup plan. In the meantime, EPA will continue to keep the Meddybemps community informed and involved in activities at the site through public meetings, periodic updates, personal telephone calls, and home visits during ongoing investigations and eventual cleanup activities.

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Meddybemps, Maine.

GLOSSARY

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

A Federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. The Acts created a special tax that goes into a trust fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and cleanup abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, EPA can either:

- Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the Federal government for the cleanup costs

Hazard Ranking System (HRS)

The HRS is the chief method EPA uses to rank the potential risks posed by different hazardous waste sites. It does not determine if cleanup is possible or worthwhile, or the amount of cleanup needed. Rather, it allows EPA to compare the potential risks presented by different sites. The HRS is intended as a screening mechanism for sites to determine which ones may need additional comprehensive study.

National Priorities List

EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup using money from the Trust Fund. The list is primarily based on the score a site receives on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). EPA is required to update the NPL at least once a year. There are currently 1,270 sites on the Agency's National Priorities List.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

PCBs are commonly used in electrical and hydraulic equipment and used motor oil. Individuals who are exposed to PCBs through ingestion of contaminated food and/or water could be at risk for reproductive impairment and developing cancers.

Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Pollutants comprised primarily of a group of compounds commonly found in motor oils.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Studies conducted by EPA and State Department of Environmental Protection to determine the types, quantities, and locations of hazardous substances and materials on and near a Superfund site. Findings from these studies assist the Agencies in establishing criteria for site cleanup, identifying and screening cleanup alternatives, and analyzing in detail the technologies and costs of the cleanup alternatives.

Trichloroethane (TCA)

A solvent used for cleaning precision instruments, metal degreasing, pesticide, and textile processing.

Trichloroethylene (TCE)

This solvent is commonly used in industry as a metal degreaser or oil extractant. A liquid, TCE vaporizes when exposed to light and air. It is colorless and emits a chloroform-like odor. TCE is toxic to humans when inhaled and may cause skin irritation when in contact with skin.

Trust Fund

A fund set up under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to help pay for cleanup of hazardous waste sites and to legally force responsible parties to participate in site cleanups.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Contaminants comprised of solvents, degreasers, paints, thinners, and fuels that evaporate easily. Examples of VOCs include trichloroethylene and trichloroethane.

APPENDIX A: Federal, State and Local Officials

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APPENDIX C: Newspaper Articles

EPA reports residential wells uncontaminated

Meddybemps properties located near hazardous materials site

By Diana Graettinger
Of the NEWS Staff

MEDDYBEMPS — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is notifying nearly 30 residents whose property is near a hazardous site that their wells have not been contaminated by chemicals that leached into the ground during the past few years.

Last year, the former Eastern Surplus Co. 5-acre site, which is bordered by Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River, Route 191 and Stone Road, was added to the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites, making it eligible for federal cleanup money.

Cleanup costs at the site last year totaled \$750,000. "Just the residential well sampling program probably cost in the neighborhood of \$60,000," said Ed Hathaway, EPA Maine-Vermont-Connecticut Superfund Program project manager. He estimated same amount probably would be spent this year

and next year to complete the needed studies. More than \$2 million has been spent since the cleanup began.

The site once was used to store containers of hazardous materials, salvage, scrap metal, miscellaneous debris and military equipment such as helmets, canteens and ammunition. In 1985, federal and state officials found stockpiles of deteriorating drums, pails and containers and discovered that PCBs and other chemicals had leached into the soil. It is believed soil and ground water at the privately owned site could be contaminated with at least 31 hazardous materials.

Last year, Hathaway said 20 new test wells had been installed, bringing to 24 the total number of test wells around the site. "We took about 500 soil samples from the site during the one-month field program, and ... we took about 40 samples from the Dennys River and six

See *Hazardous Site, B2, Col. 1*

More tests set for May

EPA plans public hearing to update local residents

Hazardous Site, from B1
samples from Meddybemps Lake," he said.

Preliminary results indicate that neither the lake nor the river have been contaminated. "But we have a lot of work to do in terms of looking at the hard data. We don't see anything that sets off alarms. ... But it takes a lot more work to evaluate whether or not there is anything at a concentration that would be a long-term problem," Hathaway said.

A sample of residents' wells, Hathaway said, revealed no contamination. "We hope to send out letters to residents with their well results within the next two to three weeks, notifying them specifically that their wells are clean," he said.

Hathaway said some soil at the site may be contaminated. "There may be an area with some pretty high solvents that we may have to do some work on," he said. He said a high-tech vacuum system, known as vapor extraction, might be used to remove the contaminated soil.

In 1985, the state Department of

Environmental Protection discovered leaking electrical transformers, hundreds of deteriorating compressed gas cylinders, 16,000 pounds of calcium carbide and stained soil. The DEP did an emergency cleanup and built a fence around the property to secure the area.

By the spring of 1986, the DEP had removed thousands of pounds of electrical components that contained carcinogenic PCBs and thousands of gallons of oil, solvent, acid and paint.

The EPA and the Department of Defense took over the cleanup in October 1986. The EPA repackaged chemicals for safe transport to hazardous waste sites and removed large quantities of potentially explosive materials. The soil was tested and test wells were dug and monitored to determine the extent of the contamination.

Hathaway said the EPA planned to do more tests in May and a public meeting is planned for that time. "That will get everybody up to speed about what we are doing," he said.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/24	# of pages	1
To	ED HATHAWAY	From	STEVE MIERZIKOWSKI		
Co./Dept.	EPA	Co.	USFWS		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

BANGOR MAIL NEWS -
 MARCH 22-23, 1997
 Ed Hathaway
 4/19/97
 TOTAL P. 01

CALAIS ADVERTISER

CALAIS, ME
WEEKLY 4,300

MAY 8 1997

NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY, INC.
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Meddybemps

Linda Gordon
454-3216

L.P.D.

The Meddybemps Lake Association would like to welcome our newest member, Harriet Martell from Woodland. Ms. Martell has a camp at Bear Cove. The association is having a membership drive at the present time so if anyone is interested please call Joan Ketchen 454-8462 or myself to join.

Attention from Florida: Chet Smith would like to rent a pontoon boat the last three weeks in August to be used on Meddybemps Lake. He is familiar with boats and the lake so if anyone has one to rent please contact Bud Chaffee at 454-3190 or myself. Mr. Smith has his own docking facilities at his cottage and will treat the boat with T.L.C.

I would like to welcome home Mr. and Mrs. Erland Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. Helon Turmel. Glad to have you back in Meddybemps!

Belated happy birthday goes out to Roberta Palmeter! I heard her family had a small celebration with a birthday cake.

It is so nice to see water and not ice! I believe it was gone by April 28. This is not official!

Anyone wishing to join the Meddybemps Historical Society, please call 454-3216. I will be announcing a meeting date

in next week's article. We just had another new member join last week! We have started typing some of the history we have gathered and if anyone wishes to share something that their parents had told them about the old days, please feel free to call. I went to the Calais Library and there is nothing on Meddybemps at the library. Marilyn asked if I would give the library a copy of what history we receive.

The Meddybemps Fire Department will be having a meeting at the fire hall May 20 at 7:00pm. All members should attend because of training and information that has been received.

Recently, I received a letter from the EPA on the finished work that has been done at Eastern Maine Surplus. In the letter, they ask that implementing any response actions at the site, EPA will actively seek input from the community members. In plain facts this means that if the town residents do not write petition, and make known that we want the whole site cleaned up, they will only do what they have to do. It is my opinion, there is millions of dollars set aside for the clean up of many areas like this and if we do not let the state know what we want done, than some other place will. The MONEY will go somewhere else. PLEASE WRITE!

I got a letter the other day from Dot Perkins' daughters, thanking everyone who sent cards and letters to Dot and thanking me for putting it in the paper. Dot really appreciated each of them. Dot is doing very well and being in a nursing home she appreciates any let-

ters or cards she gets. Also, her daughter gets the *Advertiser* and takes it over for her to read. Dot is living at Coachlace Healthcare Center, Room 12G, 250 Main Street, Clinton, Mass. 01510. I would, also, like to say thank you for reading my articles because I try to do my best to keep people away in touch with what is happening in Meddybemps.

I would like to thank James Bowersett for the lovely framed 1881 maps of Meddybemps that he donated to the historical society and the community center. They are greatly appreciated.

BANGOR DAILY NEWS
 June 11, 1997
 Bangor, ME

FUSILE FAX 11016		10/1		EPOW		pages: 1	
To	ED HATHAWAY	From	STEVE MIERZYKOWSKI				
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Phone #		Phone #					
Fax #		Fax #					

4 of 20 test wells show contaminants

782431
1045

EPA crew returns to Meddybemps site

By Diana Graettinger
 Of the NEWS Staff

MEDDYBEMPS — Contaminants were found in four of the 20 monitoring wells at the site of the former Eastern Surplus Co. in December, so officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency returned to the site Monday and Tuesday to test the wells a second time. The results will not be available for a few months.

Although some of the test wells were found to contain contaminants in the December tests, 32 wells belonging to local residents near the hazardous-waste site showed no contamination. EPA officials made the December findings known Monday night at a public hearing attended by about 20 Meddybemps residents.

Last year, the 5-acre site, which is bordered by Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River, Route 191 and Stone Road, was added to the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites, making it eligible for federal cleanup money.

The EPA so far has spent about \$1 million on the site and expects to spend about \$2 million by the time it is done, said Ed Hathaway, EPA Maine-Vermont-Connecticut Superfund Program project manager, who was at the site Monday.

The site once was used to store containers of hazardous materials, salvage, scrap metal, miscellaneous debris and military equipment such as helmets, canteens and ammunition.

In 1985, federal and state officials found stockpiles of deteriorating drums, pails and containers and discovered that PCBs and other chemicals had leached into the soil.

In the last few months, EPA officials have found two hot spots that contain PCBs, solvents and chromium. The whole cleanup area has been fenced and warning signs have been posted. EPA officials will create a cleanup plan for the site that could include offsite disposal of contaminated soil, cleaning the soil through a vapor extraction system or covering the site with clay or plastic to prevent rainwater from moving additional contamination into the ground water.

Four monitoring wells were found to contain levels of contaminants above drinking water standards that include tetracholorethene and trichloroethene commonly used in degreaser and cleaning solvents. The contamination was found at two test wells across the road from the site, a test well at the front of the site and a test well at the rear of the site. Hathaway speculated that two separate spills were responsible for the contamination detected in the test wells.

"They [contaminants] are mobile and they end up in ground water. They stick to the soil a little which allows them to bleed off for a long period of time," Hathaway said. "There is a good chance that all of the contamination at this site is going into the Dennys River," he said.

Although these compounds are not "terribly bad" for fish, Hathaway said, they could be causing a "river quality problem."

In addition to the test wells, the EPA also tested 40 sites along the river and discovered some problems. "In general we didn't see anything that was screamingly hot, but we did find PCBs and semi-volatiles there, things like oils and combustion byproducts," he said. More specialists will be called in to

Hathaway said he did not believe the contaminants were a hazard to anyone walking in the river, but he said EPA officials were uncertain about the possible environmental hazard to fish and wildlife. He said an ecological risk assessment would be prepared.

Steven Mierzykowski, a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also was on site Monday. He said his agency was concerned about the possible impact on fish and wildlife. IFW personnel will review the data collected by the EPA.

"At this particular site we have bald eagles, which are a threatened species, we have anadromous fish, in the Atlantic salmon, as well as [Moosehorn National Wildlife] refuge land and migratory birds," he said.

It was clear that residents at the meeting Monday night were eager to listen and learn. One Meddybemps resident thanked Hathaway. He said that more had been accomplished by the EPA during the past year than during the entire period since the dump was identified as a hazardous waste site.

QUODDY TIDES

EASTPORT, ME
SEMI-MONTHLY 5, 1986

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NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY, INC.

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Contamination testing results reported for Meddybemps site

by Marie Jones Holmes

Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided Meddybemps residents, at a public meeting held June 9, with preliminary results of an ongoing investigation of the former Eastern Surplus site.

The five-acre site, which is bordered by Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River, Route 191 and Stone Road, was placed on the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in 1996, making it eligible for federal cleanup money. An inspection of the property by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 1985 found heavy chemical odors, leaking electrical transformers and other serious conditions. The EPA has spent about \$1 million on the site and expects to spend about \$2 million by the time the work is completed, according to Ed Hathaway, EPA New England Superfund Program project manager. Beginning in 1946, the privately owned property served as a storage area for army and navy surplus and salvaged items.

Hathaway reported that some test wells were found to contain contaminants, but

30 wells belonging to residents near the site showed no contamination. During the past several months the United States Geological Survey installed groundwater monitoring wells at the site area to help refine the groundwater flow patterns and monitor the extent of contamination. Contaminants were found in four of the 20 monitoring wells.

Last week the wells were tested a second time. Test results should be available within a few months.

According to EPA officials, area residents appear to be pleased with the progress being made at the site and are particularly pleased that additional samples will be taken this summer. Erin Heskett of the EPA says two hot spots containing volatile chemicals and PCBs were found near a building on the site and additional soil samples will be taken to define the source of the contamination.

A repository of information on the Eastern Surplus site work already completed by federal and state agencies and ongoing findings is available at the Calais Free Library. The EPA will continue to update the reports.

Agencies continue to study Meddybemps Superfund site

by Marie Jones Holmes

Reports on studies conducted in 1996 at the Eastern Surplus Company Superfund site at Meddybemps have been completed. Continuing studies are under way, including the collection this month of fish and mussel samples from several locations in Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River. The samples will be collected toward the end of this month by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The samples will be analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury and some pesticides. By February 1998, the final results of this fish sampling should be available.

To date, the EPA has spent approximately \$1 million investigating the Meddybemps property. According to Erin Heskett, community involvement coordinator for the EPA, "We expect to spend approximately \$2 million in the investigation of the site."

1996 reports available

This month, the Region 1 New England office of the EPA announced the completion of the final reports for the 1996 surface water, sediment, groundwater and residential well sampling events at the Eastern Surplus Company site. The reports were completed in July and are now available at the Calais Free Library. The final report of the 1996 soil sampling events was completed in August and should be available at the library by mid-September.

The studies began in 1996 when the Eastern Surplus Company property was added to the national priority list of Superfund sites, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds. Beginning in 1946, the privately owned property had served

as a storage area for army and navy surplus and salvaged items. An inspection of the property by the Maine DEP in 1985 noted heavy chemical odors, leaking electrical transformers and other serious conditions.

The EPA has completed the majority of its work to understand the nature and extent of contamination at the Eastern Surplus site and surrounding area.

Pilot study to be conducted for vapor extraction

By the end of this fall, the EPA expects to complete the investigation phase of the program. Brown and Root Environmental and Roy F. Weston, contractors hired by the EPA, will complete the surface soil, surface water, sediment and groundwater investigations at the site during late September and October. Additional studies will be conducted throughout the fall to evaluate different methods that could be used to clean up the contamination at the site. A pilot test will be conducted for soil vapor extraction as a possible cleanup technology. In soil vapor extraction, contaminants are drawn from the soil in vapor form. The type of treatment chosen depends on which contaminants are present and their concentrations.

U.S. Geological Survey studies under way

This month, the U.S. Geological Survey is performing additional groundwater studies at the site to complete the evaluation of the groundwater flow. A final USGS report that described the geology of the site and the groundwater flow patterns should be available in the spring of 1998.

Associated Press
New England News

02-18-98 02:16

Cleanup at superfund site could come early

MEDDYBEMPS, Maine (AP) - If a plan for early cleanup of the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site is approved, the project could begin in October, officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said.

EPA officials confirmed last year the nearly 30 residential wells near the hazardous-waste site showed no contamination, but they believe the wells are at risk as long as contaminated soil remains at the site.

Last year, EPA officials found two hot spots on the site that contain PCBs, solvents and chromium. The cleanup area has been fenced, and warning signs have been posted.

The EPA cleanup plan includes offsite disposal of contaminated soil and the expansion of studies to determine the most effective cleanup method.

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Erin Heskett said Tuesday that the site is considered a health hazard, but it is not an "imminent threat" to area residents and Meddybemps Lake users. "We still urge people not go on site, because contact with those soils could be hazardous to their health," Heskett said.

Two years ago, the 5-acre site, which is bordered by Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River, Route 191 and Stone Road, was added to the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites, making it eligible for federal cleanup money.

So far, the EPA has spent more than \$1 million on the site and expects to spend an additional \$2 million on the cleanup.

The site once was used to store containers of hazardous materials, salvage, scrap metal, miscellaneous debris and military equipment such as helmets, canteens and ammunition. In 1985, federal and state officials found stockpiles of deteriorating drums, pails and containers and discovered that PCBs and other chemicals had leached into the soil.

If the cleanup begins in October, removal of the PCBs should take about a month, but cleanup of the solvents could take additional time.

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NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY, INC.

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RE

EPA developing plan for early cleanup of Meddybemps site

by Marie Jones Holmes

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of developing a plan to implement an early cleanup at the Eastern Surplus property in Meddybemps, which is on the national priority list of Superfund sites.

The results of studies done last year confirmed high concentrations of solvents in the soils and groundwater located in the back portion of the site near Meddybemps Lake. The studies also revealed an area of soil that was highly contaminated with PCBs adjacent to the old power generating building at the front of the site.

Based on the studies, the EPA and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) confirmed that residential wells are not impacted by the site. However, the agencies are concerned that the longer the contaminated soils remain on the site, the more contaminated the groundwater will become, posing a future risk to adjacent residential wells.

Technologies tested

During November 1997 the EPA performed pilot testing of technologies that could be used to extract and treat contaminants from the soil and groundwater. A vapor extraction test was performed over a three-day period in November. The test included the installation of one vapor extraction well and six air piezometers. Piezometers are used to evaluate the size of the groundwater area influenced by wells that pull water from the ground. The test was very successful and will provide important information to determine whether vapor extraction is an appropriate technology for the Eastern Surplus site cleanup.

The sampling conducted in the fall confirmed previous EPA findings in the sur-

face water, sediments and groundwater, and continues to support EPA's request that individuals not enter the site.

According to Ed Hathaway, the EPA project manager for the Meddybemps site, the early cleanup is one option the EPA may utilize to clean up sites more cost effectively and timely. Hathaway will submit a report to EPA officials in Washington, D.C., that outlines the goals and justifications for implementing the early cleanup. The report is then evaluated to determine whether funding for the early cleanup is available. Most cleanup projects are paid for by private parties, but where federal funds are used, as in the Meddybemps site, the project must compete with other projects for federal funding.

Chance for public comment if funds available for early cleanup

If funding is made available for an early cleanup, the EPA will mail a fact sheet to the Meddybemps community and other state and regional contacts that describes in more detail the components of the cleanup. The public will then have 30 days to comment on the cleanup proposal. Once evaluated, EPA will use the public comments to develop a formal document that describes and finalizes the selection of the cleanup technology. Once the public comment process is complete, then EPA would start designing a comprehensive plan for the early cleanup and hopefully begin work by October 1998.

As of September 1997, the EPA had spent approximately \$1 million investigating the Meddybemps property. The studies began in 1996 when the Eastern Surplus property was added to the national priority list of Superfund sites, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

Meddybemps

Linda Gordon

454-3216

The petition that I mentioned in last week's article, I finished Thursday night. I got most of the registered voters and only got one No! I have sent a letter and the petition to a congress person, our representatives, and to the head of the EPA Super Fund Project. I hope when they see all those signatures, that the EPA group working on Eastern Surplus Superfund Site will be able to clean up everything and restore that piece of land to the beautiful spot it once was. I personally believe that with the money spent so far that the EPA should comply with the residents' wishes.

Joan Ketchen is still in Eastern Maine Medical hospital. I hope everyone has sent her a card as she really enjoys them. She will be there for awhile to do her rehabilitation because of her hip surgery.

Welcome home to Dennis, Christina, Jana, and Adam Gillespie also Terry, Lisa, Megan, and Matthew Lord who have been vacationing in Florida.

I would like to send my sympathy out to Rocky Johnson's family. Rocky was a great man with a smile on his face, never passing anyone without saying hello. When I called him about a donation for the International Festival all those years, he was always there to help in any way he could. He sponsored the International Festival Road Race every year. I am going to miss him not just for generosity but his kindness and smile!

The Meddybemps Recreation Committee is sponsoring the Annual Adults' and Kids' Basketball game on April 19th. Anyone interested in getting in on the fun please call Tom Cook at 454-3629.

(You should see the video on last year's game!)

Wanted: Anyone who lives, lived, or had ancestors who lived in Meddybemps that might have information, pictures, or memorabilia on Meddybemps or the lake for the history, please call or write me. If any questions or you would like to join the historical society, you may contact Ed Ketchen, Paul Johnson, or me. Anyone who might have some personal memories they have of Meddybemps or Meddybemps Lake, the society would appreciate having it to put in history.

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NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY, INC.

APPENDIX D: *Newsletters*

**Community Update # 2
September 1996**



**Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine**

Site Investigations Begin/ EPA to Hold Meeting on September 30

What cleanup activities have been done on the site to date?

From 1985-1990, EPA and Maine DEP removed leaking drums, containers and electrical transformers from the Eastern Surplus site. In addition, thousand of compressed gas cylinders were also removed from the Site by the Department of Defense. The removal of these hazardous materials eliminated threats to public health and the environment.

From 1988 to 1996, EPA and Maine DEP performed an evaluation to determine if additional studies were needed at the site. Although most of the immediate hazardous materials were removed, EPA and Maine DEP were concerned about the impact from remaining site contamination to groundwater, surface water, sediment and soil quality.

In October 1995, the Eastern Surplus Company was proposed for the Superfund National Priorities list making it eligible for long term evaluation and cleanup. The Eastern Surplus Company Site became a Superfund site in June, 1996.

What will EPA be doing at the site and what contaminants is EPA testing for?

Starting this fall, the EPA plans to evaluate the site in four phases in order to determine the extent of remaining contamination and threat to public health and the environment.

Phase I - sampling of residential wells, existing monitoring wells, and surface soils.

Phase II - sampling of surface water and sediments of Meddybemps Lake and the Denny's River.

Phase III - extensive surface soil and below surface soil investigation

Phase IV - installation and sampling of monitoring wells at the site.

EPA will be testing for a wide variety of chemical and inorganic elements such as volatile organic compounds (solvents, degreasers), semi-volatile organic compounds (plasticizers, combustion by products), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, and metals (chromium, arsenic, cadmium, mercury), and dioxin.

What is the time line on the cleanup investigation?

The time line on the sampling

- Phase I: September 4-6
- Phase II: Begins week of September 30
- Phase II: Begins week of September 30
- Phase IV: Begins mid-October

How will I know if my drinking water is safe?

Initial well testing performed by EPA in 1987 indicated that drinking water wells were not adversely affected by the Site. EPA has resampled a large number of residential wells in the area to confirm that local water supplies are not impacted by the Site.

Why are additional studies being performed?

The purpose of these fall investigations is so EPA and Maine DEP can evaluate the extent of contamination of groundwater and soils. The sampling results will allow EPA and Maine DEP to determine the potential human health and ecological impacts that could result from exposure to contaminants left at the Site. EPA will prepare a report that will describe the results of the Fall 1996 testing program. The report will be available for public review in the spring at the information repository at the Calais Public Library.

What are the next steps?

After the completion of the fall investigations EPA and Maine DEP will determine if additional investigations are necessary to develop an understanding of the contamination at the Site. Once the investigations are complete, the next steps toward cleanup is for EPA to determine the potential cleanup options, propose the cleanup alternatives to the public and eventually select a cleanup approach. The community will have an opportunity to review and offer comment on the proposed alternative. EPA seeks community input in selecting a cleanup alternative and considers all comments from the public in selecting an alternative.

How can I find out more?

On Monday, September 30 at 7:00 pm, the EPA invites community members to attend an **informational meeting** at the Community Center in Meddybemps, ME. At the meeting, EPA Project Manager Ed Hathaway will provide a site update and answer any questions residents have regarding the Eastern Surplus site. In addition, an **information repository** will be set up at the Calais Public Library. The repository will contain technical documents, updates and general information on the cleanup.

If you have questions about the cleanup at Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site call:
Ed Hathaway, EPA at (617) 573-5782 or Rebecca Hewett, Maine DEP at (207) 287-8554

Community Update #3
November 1996



Eastern Surplus Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine

Site Investigations and Sampling Complete/ Groundwater Wells to be Installed

Cleanup activities completed to date:

EPA has completed three major activities in the cleanup of the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site that were scheduled to occur in 1996.

These completed activities include:

- ▶ Phase I: Residential Well Sampling
- ▶ Phase II: Surface Water/Sediment Sampling
- ▶ Phase III: On-site Soil Investigation
- ▶ Phase IV: Monitoring Well Installation

During the Phase I, II and III portion of the Fall 1996 field activities, approximately 500 soil and surface water samples were collected and analyzed. An additional 65 samples were sent to an off-site laboratory to confirm the results. EPA will use the sample data to determine the nature and extent of contamination and establish if the contaminant pose a risk to human health at the Eastern Surplus Site.

Sampling Results:

Phase I: Residential Wells : *The residential well results should be available to residents by the end of the month. Preliminary results indicate that all residential wells were clean. The residential well data will be sent to residents at the end of the month.*

Phase II: Surface Water/Sediments: Seven sediment and five surface water locations in Meddybemps Lake were sampled by the EPA contractor. Thirty-six sediment and five surface water locations were samples in the Dennys River. Samples were taken as far down stream as the Dead River, although the majority of samples were obtained near the Site.

Phase III: Soil: Preliminary sampling results reveal that portions of the site are heavily contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene. EPA will use the data to further delineate the contamination. The data from the soil investigation will be available by April 1997.

Phase IV: Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling: The United States Geological Survey has overseen the installation of twenty monitoring wells to evaluate the flow of the groundwater. Eight bedrock monitoring wells and twelve overburden monitoring wells were installed from October 22, 1996 to November 8, 1996.

Next Steps:

The Phase IV activities at the Eastern Surplus Site will continue with the evaluation of the groundwater flow directions and the sampling of groundwater monitoring wells. Groundwater samples will be obtained from these new wells in December 1996.

EPA will be sending each resident a copy of the results of their residential water analysis. Please contact Edward Hathaway at (617) 573-5782 if you have any questions regarding the results.

Once the fall 1996 investigations are complete EPA will evaluate the data and prepare data summary reports. EPA and ME DEP will determine whether there is sufficient information to initiate a cleanup action at the Site or if additional investigations are necessary to support the development of a cleanup plan.

Documents will be sent to the Site Information Repository, which is the Calais Public Library, as they are completed.

Please be advised: Due to potential hazards at the site, EPA recommends residents restrict their use of the site until further investigations are complete and a health assessment has been performed.

Schedule of upcoming activities at Eastern Surplus Superfund Site:

Groundwater Sampling	December 1996
Data Evaluation	November 1996 - March 1997
Preliminary Reports	March 1997
Public Information Meeting	March 1997

Community Update #4: April 1997



**Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine**

EPA Fall Investigation Program 50% Complete

EPA has completed 3 of the 5 major activities that were scheduled to occur during 1996. These activities are:

- Residential Well Sampling
- Surface water and sediment sampling
- On-site soil investigation

The two remaining activities are the installation of groundwater monitoring wells and the sampling of those monitoring wells. The well installation program should be completed by the end of November 1996. Groundwater samples will be obtained in December if weather permits.

Approximately 500 samples were collected and analyzed using the laboratory at the Eastern Surplus Site. An additional 65 samples were sent to off-site laboratories to confirm the results of the on-Site laboratory. EPA's contractor, Roy F. Weston, performed the sample collection and analysis activities. EPA will have Weston prepare summary reports of the fall 1996 investigation.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) will be overseeing the installation of groundwater monitoring wells at the Site. The USGS work began in October and will continue into November 1996. Approximately 18 groundwater monitoring wells will be installed at the Site. Once the wells are installed EPA will have Weston sample the wells.

EPA is performing quality control evaluations of the residential well data. The residential well results should be sent to the residents by the end of November 1996. Preliminary results indicate that all of the residential wells were clean.

The Site investigation program did reveal that portions of the Site are heavily contaminated with tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). EPA is assessing the data to determine the extent of contamination at the Site and will perform an analysis to determine if contact with the material represents a risk to persons using the Site.

The data from the Site investigations should be available to the public by April 1997. A public meeting is planned for next spring to discuss the results and plans for any future actions at the Site. EPA recommends that individuals restrict their use of the Site until the investigations and risk assessments are complete.

EPA is working with the Calais Library to set up a Site repository. The Information Repository should be available to the public by the end of 1996. If you have any questions regarding Site activities please contact Edward M. Hathaway at (617) 573-5782.



**Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine**

1996 Investigations Successfully Completed: EPA Evaluating Data to Prepare Reports

Cleanup activities completed to date

All of the investigation and sampling activities that EPA planned for 1996 have been completed. A substantial amount of surface water, groundwater, sediment, and soil data has been received by EPA. EPA is now performing the quality control evaluation of the data and will begin the preparation of reports summarizing the results.

The completed activities include:

- Phase I: Residential Well Sampling
- Phase II: Surface Water/Sediment Sampling
- Phase III: On-site Soil Investigation
- Phase IV: Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling

During phases I, II and III of the Fall 1996 field activities, approximately 600 soil, surface water, sediment, and ground water samples were collected and analyzed. An additional 65 samples were sent to an off-site laboratory to confirm the results. EPA will use this sample data to determine the nature and extent of contamination and will also determine if the identified contaminants pose a risk to human health at the Eastern Surplus Site.

Sampling Results

Phase I: Residential Wells The residential well results have been sent to each resident. Results

indicate that all residential wells were clean. EPA plans to sample the residential wells closest to the Site during the groundwater sampling events in 1997.

Phase II: Surface Water/Sediments Seven sediment and five surface water locations in Meddybemps Lake were sampled by the EPA contractor. Thirty-six sediment and five surface water locations were sampled in the Dennys River. Samples were taken as far down stream as the Dead River, although the majority of samples were obtained near the Site. These sample results are being evaluated at this time.

Phase III: Soil 450 soil samples were analyzed at the laboratory that was established at the Site. An additional 65 samples were sent to a separate laboratory for confirmation of the on-site laboratory results.

The majority of the Site does not appear to contain significant levels of contamination. However, preliminary sampling results reveal that portions of the site are heavily contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene, including a hot spot in the back right corner. This area was identified as a potential soil hot spot during the on-site soil screening program.

EPA will use the data to further assess and

characterize the contamination. The data from the soil investigation will be available by June 1997.

Phase IV: Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has overseen the installation of twenty monitoring wells to evaluate the flow of the groundwater. Eight bedrock monitoring wells and twelve overburden monitoring wells were installed from October 22, 1996 to November 8, 1996. The four existing wells and the twenty new wells were sampled during December 1996. The data indicates that a small area of contaminated ground water exists in the immediate area of the Site.

What are the next steps?

EPA will evaluate the results of the 1996 investigations (Phases I-IV) with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the EPA support contractors. At this time EPA plans to perform two additional rounds of groundwater sampling this spring and summer. The need for additional surface water, sediment, or soil samples will be determined after the results of the 1996 investigations have been reviewed.

In addition, EPA will evaluate the data to see if sufficient information exists to initiate a quick cleanup measure for the Site this year or if additional information is necessary to determine the most cost-effective approach. This evaluation includes a review of quick cleanup measures for on-site contamination and a determination of the best cleanup plan for the Site. The two possible quick cleanup options include *soil excavation* and *soil vapor extraction*.

Before implementing any response actions at the Eastern Surplus Site, EPA will actively seek input from community members. EPA treats all comments from the public as valuable in determining final cleanup plans.

Currently, USGS is installing between four and six additional shallow wells on-site to prepare for surface and groundwater monitoring activities starting on April 21, 1997. The USGS will also be in the area periodically to measure water levels in these wells. In mid-late May 1997, EPA expects to be at the Eastern Surplus Site to conduct additional groundwater sampling. During the latter part of the summer, EPA will conduct follow-up soil and groundwater sampling.

How can I find out more?

Visit your *Information Repository*, located at the Calais Free Library. The Information Repository, (*available starting in mid-May*), contains all documents pertinent to current and past Superfund activities at the Eastern Surplus Site (i.e., residential well sampling results, Administrative Record, Community Updates). General information on the Superfund process and other resources available to the community is also provided in the Repository.

Calais Free Library
Union Street
Calais, Maine 04619
(207) 454-2758
Hours: M,T,W: 12-8; Th, Fri.: 9-6;
Sat. (through the end of May): 10-2

In addition, a *public information meeting* will be held in Meddybemps in mid-late May 1997 to present the results of field investigations conducted in Fall 1996. The date, time, and location of this meeting will be announced via public notice in your local newspaper and through your personal mail. This meeting will provide community members an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the investigation results and cleanup plans for the Site.

Please be advised: Due to potential hazards at the site, EPA recommends that residents restrict their use of the site until further investigations are complete and a health assessment has been performed.



**Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine**

Community Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Fall Investigation Results

Come to Your Community Meeting!

Mark your calendars on June 9, 1997 at 7:00pm to attend a **public information meeting** at Community Hall in Meddybemps! Check your local and daily papers for an official public notice announcing the meeting.

EPA will provide a preliminary review of the results of field investigations that were conducted at the Site in Fall 1996 and discuss summer plans for further groundwater, soil, and air sampling. Community members will have an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the investigation results and cleanup plans for the Site.

Update of Complete Activities

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) installed four additional groundwater monitoring wells during the week of April 21, 1997. The wells will help refine the groundwater flow patterns and extent of contamination on Site. As part of the well installation program, 10 soil samples were obtained for analysis by the State of Maine laboratory. The samples were tested for PCBs. The USGS continues to evaluate the water levels in all of the Site monitoring wells, the Dennys' River, and Meddybemps Lake to help provide an understanding of the seasonal movement of groundwater over time.

EPA has also completed the quality assessment of the data collected in Fall 1996. This data is now being summarized and incorporated into sampling

reports. These reports should be available by late June 1997.

Upcoming Site Activities

From June 5-13, EPA will be at the Eastern Surplus Site to collect additional groundwater and soil samples. Ambient air samples will also be collected at this time.

Additional *groundwater sampling* is being performed for the following reasons:

- to collect samples from the four newly installed monitoring wells;
- to collect a second set of samples from the existing wells to verify the first set of results and assess any seasonal variability;
- to re-confirm that the closest residential wells are clean.

Please be advised: Due to potential hazards at the site, EPA recommends that residents restrict their use of the site until further investigations are complete and a health assessment has been performed.

The additional *soil samples* are being collected to help define the extent of the solvent-contaminated "hot spot" in the back section of the Site. This data will help EPA to estimate the cost of cleanup.

The *air data* is being collected to assess the impact of the solvents detected in the "hot spot" on air quality. Air quality data will help establish health and safety requirements for any future work at the Site.

Will additional surface water and sediment samples be taken?

EPA and ME DEP will need to further evaluate the Fall 1996 information before the extent of additional surface water and sediment sampling can be determined. Some sampling will be performed this summer, but the number of samples and the locations of these samples is not certain at this time.

Will fish or mussel sampling be performed?

Once all of the information from the fall 1996 program is available to EPA and ME DEP ecological and human health specialists, a decision will be made regarding the need for fish and/or mussel sampling.

Resources for Public Participation

On May 19, 1997, EPA mailed a package of information to the Calais Free Library to start-up the information repository for the Site. There, citizens will find information about general Superfund issues and processes, past Eastern Surplus Community Updates, citizen contributions, technical issues, and relevant legislation. Over the next few months, EPA will make additions to the repository, including all relevant information about the Site to date.

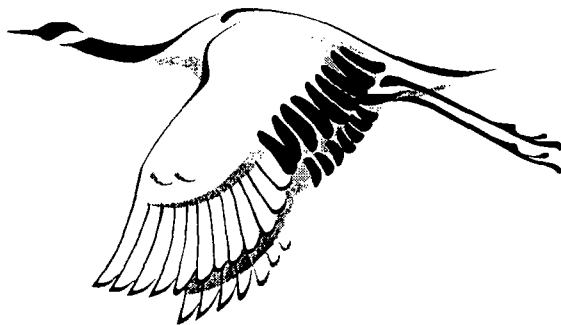
**Calais Free Library
Union Street
Calais, Maine 04619
(207) 454-2758**

Library Hours:

M, T, W: 12-8; Th, Fri.: 9-6; Sat. (through the end of May): 10-2

When you have questions about cleanup activities at the Site and any other issues related to EPA's efforts, please contact either Ed Hathaway at (617) 573-5782, or Erin Heskett at (617) 565-3033 of EPA, or Rebecca Hewett at the Maine DEP at (207) 287-2651. You may also use EPA's toll-free number: 1-888-EPA-REG1. If you use this number, just ask for Ed (5782) or Erin (3033) and your call will be transferred.

We look forward to speaking with you at the meeting!!



Community Update #7: September 1997



Eastern Surplus Company Superfund Site Meddybemps, Maine

☞The purpose of this update is to inform interested citizens and local officials in Meddybemps and nearby communities about the nature and status of EPA's activities at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site. ☞

Final Sampling Reports Complete

The final reports for the 1996 surface water, sediment, groundwater, and residential well sampling events were completed in July and are now available at the Calais Free Library. The final report of the 1996 soil sampling events was completed in August and should be available at the library by mid-September. Please contact Marilyn Diffin, reference librarian, for assistance. **Calais Free Library, Union Street, Calais, Maine, 04619, (207) 454-2758.**

EPA contractors take samples from a groundwater monitoring well across the street from the Eastern Surplus Site during sampling events in June.



Upcoming Studies this Fall

The EPA has completed the majority of its work to understand the nature and extent of contamination at the Eastern Surplus site and surrounding area. By the end of this fall, the EPA expects to complete the investigation phase

of the program. Brown and Root Environmental, and Roy F. Weston, contractors hired by the EPA, will complete the surface soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater investigations at the site during late September and October. Additional studies will be conducted throughout the fall to evaluate different technologies that

could be used to cleanup the contamination at the site. The EPA is currently working to implement a pilot test for soil vapor extraction (SVE) as a possible cleanup technology for the site.

In soil vapor extraction, contaminants are drawn from the soil in vapor form. SVE systems are designed to remove contaminants that have a tendency to volatilize or evaporate easily, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Extracted vapors are treated on site using carbon adsorption, incineration, or condensation. The type of treatment chosen depends on which contaminants are present and their concentrations. The EPA will provide more detailed information about SVE as the pilot test progresses.

USGS Studies

This month, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is performing additional groundwater studies at the site to complete our understanding and evaluation of the groundwater flow. A final USGS report that describes the geology of the site and the groundwater flow patterns should be available in Spring 1998.

Fish Studies

Toward the end of September, the EPA, MEDEP, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will collect fish and mussel samples from several locations in Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River. These samples will be analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and some pesticides. By February 1998, the final results of this fish sampling should be available.

Study Completion Reports

In coordination with its contractors, the EPA will complete a series of documents that will detail the results of all of the work conducted at the site, including Fall 1997. Reports will also be prepared that present evaluations of the potential

for adverse human health or environmental impacts from any contamination detected at the site.

All of these reports should be completed by April 1998. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress of our activities at the site and notify you with the results of any studies we conduct.

Please be advised: Due to potential hazards at the site, EPA recommends that residents restrict their use of the site until further investigations are complete and a health assessment has been performed.

Please Contact Us!

When you have questions about cleanup activities at the Eastern Surplus site and any other issues related to EPA's efforts, please contact either

**Ed Hathaway, EPA at (617) 573-5782;
Erin Heskett, EPA at (617) 565-3033; or,
Rebecca Hewett, Maine DEP at
(207) 287-2651**

You may also use EPA's toll-free number: **1-888-EPA-REG1**. If you use this number, just ask for Ed (5782) or Erin (3033) and your call will be transferred.

We look forward to speaking with you!

10/22/97 10:31 US EPA/NAE 117 000001

Figure 1
A Combined Soil Vapor Extraction/Air Sparging System

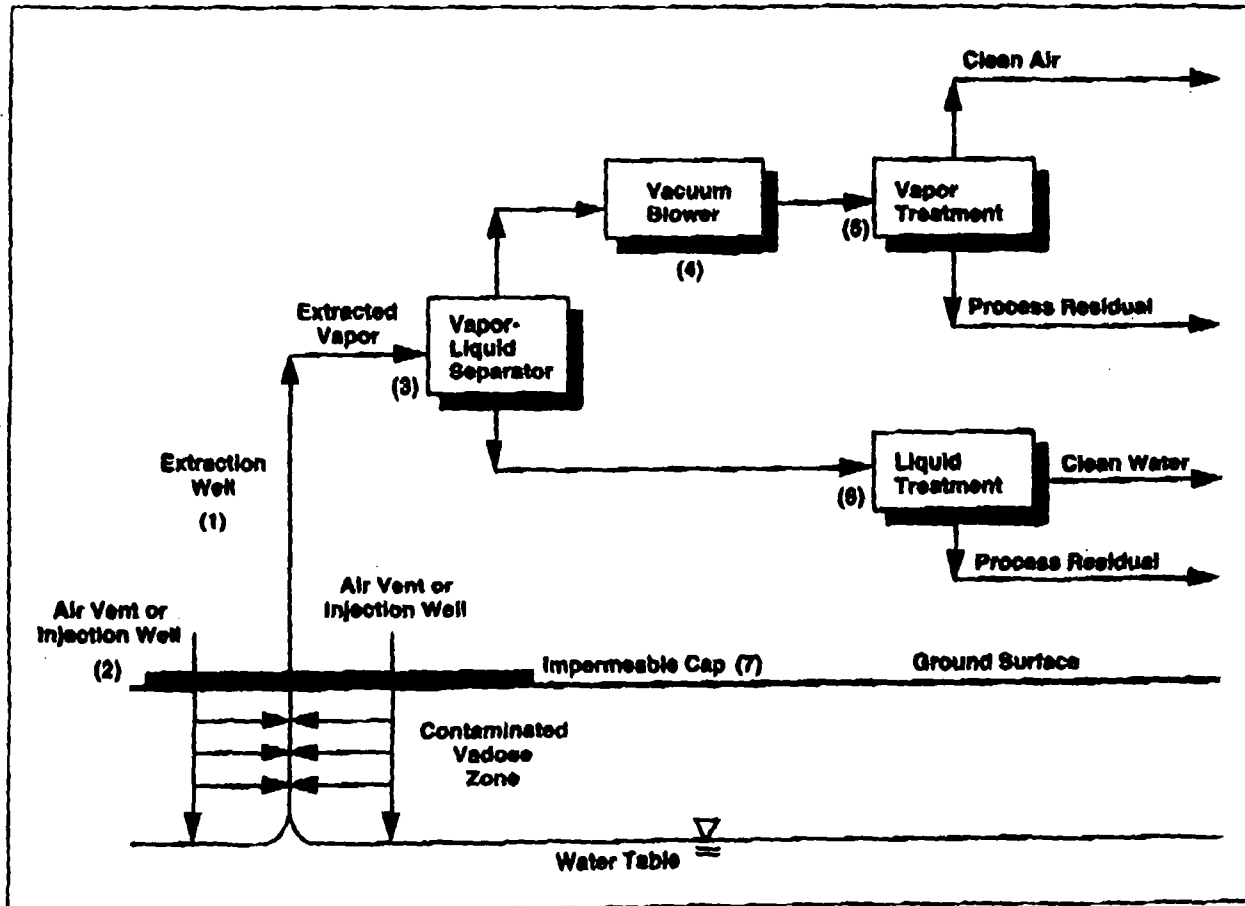
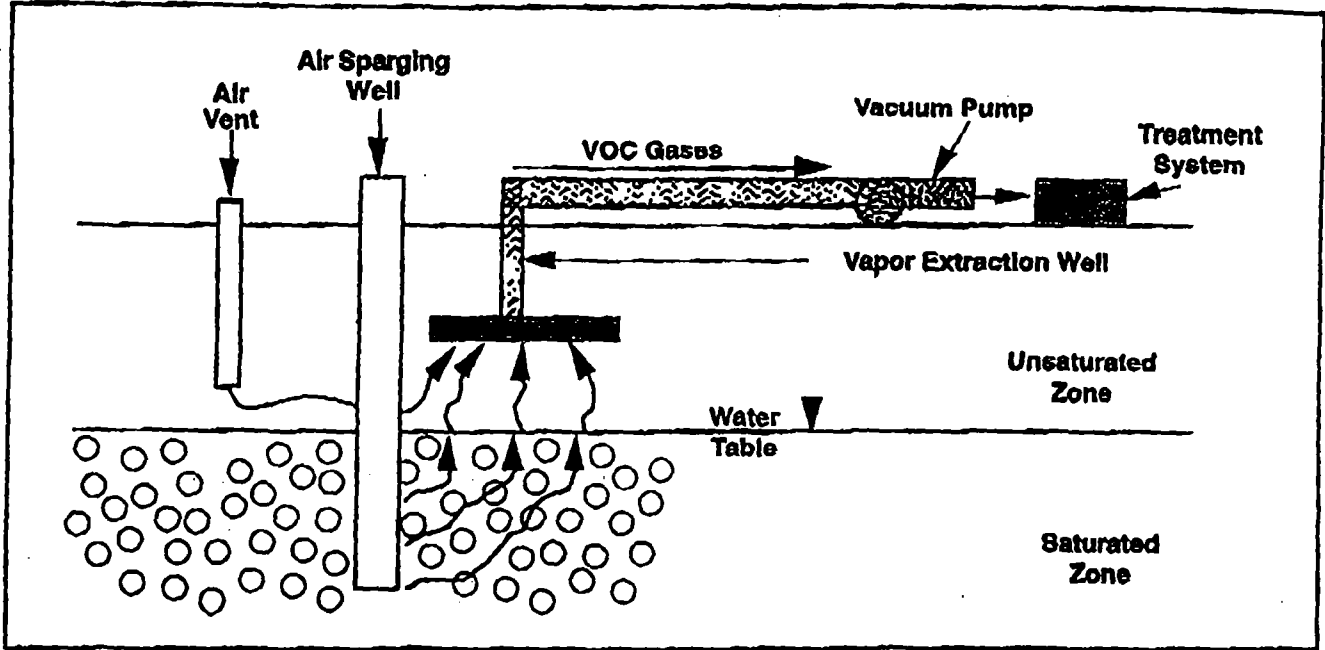


Figure 2-2. Generic soil vapor extraction system.



EPA Plans Early Cleanup

Eastern Surplus Superfund Site
Meddybemps, Maine
Community Update #9



The purpose of this update is to inform interested citizens and local officials in Meddybemps and nearby communities about the nature and status of EPA's activities at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site.

EPA Plans Early Soil Cleanup

EPA is currently developing a plan to implement an early cleanup at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site. This early cleanup is called a Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA), and is one option the EPA may utilize, when appropriate, to cleanup Superfund Sites more cost effectively and timely.

The EPA project manager for the Eastern Surplus cleanup, Ed Hathaway, must submit a report to EPA officials in Washington, DC that outlines the goals and justifications for implementing a NTCRA. The report is then evaluated to determine whether funding for the early cleanup is available.

If funding for the NTCRA is available, EPA will mail a fact sheet to the Meddybemps community and other state and regional contacts that describes in more detail the components of the cleanup. The public will then have 30 days to comment on the cleanup proposal. Once evaluated, EPA will use the public comments to develop a formal document that describes and finalizes the selection of the cleanup technology.

Please Contact Us!

If you have any questions regarding the sample results or the possibility of an early cleanup action, please contact:

EPA toll free
1-888-372-7341
and ask for either

Ed Hathaway @
(617) 573-5782; or

Erin Heskett @
(617) 565-3033.

Your comments and concerns regarding cleanup activities at the Eastern Surplus site are always welcome.

✓Excavate and dispose of soils with high concentrations of PCBs and VOCs. The contaminated soils would be disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste facility.

✓Expand the vapor extraction/groundwater extraction studies to determine the most effective cleanup technology.

EPA will not make a final decision on the components of the cleanup until public comments on the proposed plan are fully evaluated.

EPA Completes Fall 1997 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

With the assistance of MEDEP, the EPA performed additional RI/FS studies at the Eastern Surplus site in the fall to further investigate contamination in the groundwater, adjacent residential wells, surface water, and soils. The EPA also performed pilot testing of two technologies that could be used to extract and treat contaminants from the soil and groundwater. (Please refer to *Community Update #3: October 1997*, for more details about the pilot testing.)

Once the public comment process is complete, then EPA would start designing a comprehensive plan for the early cleanup and hopefully begin work by October 1998.

Preliminary Cleanup Plans

An EPA plan for the early cleanup may include the following components:

The study results confirmed high concentrations of solvents in the soils and groundwater located in the back portion of the site near Lake Meddybemps. The studies also revealed an area of soil that was highly contaminated with PCBs adjacent to the old power generating building at the front of the site.

Based on the studies, EPA and MEDEP confirmed that residential wells are not impacted by the site. However, the agencies are concerned that the longer the contaminated soils remain on the site, the more contaminated the groundwater will become, posing a future risk to adjacent residential wells.

During the fall 1997 studies, EPA and MEDEP:

✓ Collected a third set of groundwater and residential wells samples.

✓ Collected 11 surface water and 15 sediment samples from Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River.

✓ Obtained an additional 15 surface soil samples.

✓ Installed three additional overburden monitoring wells and six additional bedrock wells.

✓ Performed a groundwater extraction study to develop a better understanding of the flow of contamination in the bedrock beneath the site.

✓ Installed a vapor extraction pilot

test and performed a groundwater extraction pilot test.

The vapor extraction test was performed over a three day period in November 1997. The test included the installation of one vapor extraction well and six air piezometers. (*Piezometers are used to evaluate the size of the groundwater area influenced by wells that pull water from the ground.*) The test was very successful and will provide important information to determine whether vapor extraction is an appropriate technology for the Eastern Surplus site cleanup.

✓ Monitored the air during the vapor extraction test and confirmed that no contamination was detected beyond the boundaries of the site.

The sampling conducted in the fall confirmed previous EPA findings in the surface water, sediments, and groundwater, and **continues to support EPA's request that individuals not enter the site.**

EPA is awaiting the results of the fish and mussel sampling program, hopefully available by the end of this month.

Upcoming Activities

✓ **In March 1998**, EPA will place the results of the fall 1997 studies in the Calais Library.

✓ **In May 1998**, EPA will mail a newsletter to the Meddybemps community, and state and

regional contacts, that explains the proposed plan to implement an early cleanup (NTCRA) at the site. EPA will hold a public information meeting in conjunction with the newsletter to explain more fully the proposed plan. A 30-day public comment period will follow the official announcement of the proposed plan to provide Meddybemps' residents and other interested citizens an opportunity to express concern, ask questions, and comment. During this period, EPA will consider each comment from the public to develop a final decision on the plan.

✓ **In Late May/Early June 1998**, at the end of the comment period, EPA will hold a public hearing to explain the final cleanup plan and consider any additional public comments or concerns at that time.

✓ This coming summer and fall, EPA may evaluate whether additional testing is necessary to evaluate the application of NTCRA cleanup technologies to the Eastern Surplus site.

✓ **Ongoing** -- EPA and MEDEP will continue to evaluate the site throughout the year and will develop a comprehensive report of the data collected in all studies conducted at the Eastern Surplus site by the end of 1998. This report will include EPA's assessment of human health and environmental hazards associated with the site.

The information in the final reports will be used to select a final cleanup option for the entire site.

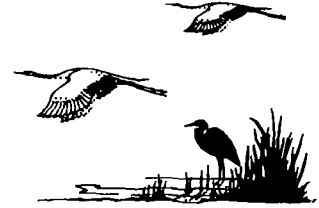
APPENDIX E: *Roadmap to Superfund: From Discovery to Cleanup*



Community Update #8: October 1997



Eastern Surplus Superfund Site Meddybemps, Maine



▣ *The purpose of this update is to inform interested citizens and local officials in Meddybemps and nearby communities about the nature and status of EPA's activities at the Eastern Surplus Superfund Site.* ▣

The EPA Is On The Move At Eastern Surplus!

Recently, the EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.FWS) collected samples from fish and mussels at three locations in both Meddybemps Lake and in the Dennys River. ***This sampling event completed the remainder of major field investigations at the Eastern Surplus Site.***

The fish and mussel samples will be analyzed by the U.S. FWS Laboratory. We appreciate the hard work and assistance of Greg Horton and his crew from the Atlantic Salmon Authority who participated in the sampling program by collecting fish from the Dennys River and Meddybemps Lake.

The EPA collected an additional 15 sediment and 6 surface water samples from Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River. Once analyzed, these samples will provide the EPA with a full characterization of both water bodies.

EPA also resampled 4 residential water supplies and all of the on-site monitoring wells to continue the groundwater assessment. Soil samples were collected from an additional 15 locations to check areas from which debris was removed since last summer.

This work ends the investigation phase of the project at Eastern Surplus. Now, the EPA and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) shifts their focus to evaluate and assess viable cleanup options for the site based on the results of the field investigations.

Cleanup Options: Technology Testing Program

The EPA identified two viable cleanup technology options for the site:

- ◆ *soil vapor extraction (SVE); and,*
- ◆ *thermal desorption.*

Pilot testing of these technologies begins at the Site on Tuesday, October 28, 1997. The tests are comprised of three phases:

① *An area of the site will be cleared of debris, trees, shrubs, and other materials to allow for the installation of the pilot test. A large pile of decayed five gallon drums will be removed to decrease the source of contamination at the Site. As part of the clearing, a sample of the most contaminated soils will be sent off-site to be used in trial runs of the thermal desorption technology. The cleared material will also be sent off-site to a disposal facility.*

② *The EPA will install a soil vapor extraction pilot system as step two of the technology testing program (see figures 1 and 2-2 for examples of a soil vapor extraction system). This involves the installation of slotted pipes into the ground. Some of the pipe will be used as ports to extract the soil vapor, and some will be used to measure the vapor flow in the soil.*

③ *The SVE system will be tested under different conditions to determine the best way to remove the contaminants from the soil. The first system test will involve the extraction of soil vapor by the extraction system. The second system test will*

involve the injection of air into the subsurface (called air sparging) to increase the movement of contaminants to the surface. The third system test will involve the combination of the first two activities to evaluate the effectiveness of extracting vapors while injecting air. The goal is to identify the best way to remove the contaminants that are in the ground.

EPA and MEDEP will use the information obtained from the technology testing program to select the best option for cleanup.

Air Monitoring and Site Safety

During the soil excavation and pilot testing, EPA will perform air monitoring to track levels of contaminants emitted into the air at the boundaries of the site. Should unsafe levels of contaminants be detected, work will be stopped. Also, contaminants in the soil vapors will be run through a treatment process, dramatically reducing the concentration of contaminants.

Next Steps

The field samples that were obtained during the fall 1997 field program will be analyzed by laboratories. Results of these analyses will be complete by the end of 1997, barring any significant delays. The results will be presented as four final reports:

- ◆ *The Remedial Investigation Report* will summarize all of the data collected at the Site and present a description of the nature and extent of contamination.
- ◆ *The Human Health Risk Assessment* will use the data collected to evaluate the potential human health concerns from present or future contact with the contamination at the Site. In particular, this study will evaluate the adverse effects that could occur if no cleanup action was taken and the Site was developed as residential property.

- ◆ *The Ecological Risk Assessment* evaluates the adverse impacts to the environment, including Meddybemps Lake, the Dennys River, and sensitive plant and animal species that could be affected by contaminants from the Site.
- ◆ *The Feasibility Study* will evaluate cleanup options to address any areas of potential adverse human health or environmental impact at the Site.

Please be advised: Due to potential hazards at the site, EPA recommends that residents restrict their use of the site until further investigations are complete and a health assessment has been performed.

Please Contact Us!

When you have questions about cleanup activities at the Eastern Surplus site and any other issues related to EPA's efforts, please contact either:

**Ed Hathaway, EPA at (617) 573-5782;
Erin Heskett, EPA at (617) 565-3033; or,
Rebecca Hewett, Maine DEP at
(207) 287-2651**

You may also use EPA's toll-free number: **1-888-372-7341**. If you use this number, just ask for Ed (573-5782) or Erin (3033) and your call will be transferred.

We look forward to speaking with you!

