

# Former American Thread Company

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## INTRODUCTION:

The former American Thread Company (FATCO) was located at 322 Main Street in Willimantic, CT. The company manufactured spool cotton and hosiery yarn at that location until 1986 when it ceased operations and sold the property.

Former American Thread Company  
Mill No. 4  
Willimantic, Windham County, CT

### Upcoming Meeting

EPA Information Meeting  
May 14, 2013

6 - 7 pm

322 Main Street, Building 2E First Floor  
Willimantic, CT 06226

The area of concern on the Site with regard to this action is located north of the former Mill No.4 building. That area consists of a variation of flat wetlands to steep embankments and is mostly tree covered. The shallow soils in portions of this area include ash and debris. Approximately three to four tons of ash was generated per day prior to 1949 as a result of the burning of coal in boilers. The coal ash was deposited in this area and was also used to create a berm around a one million gallon aboveground fuel storage tank that has since been emptied, dismantled and removed. In addition, ash and debris from the combustion of general plant refuse was also discarded in this area.

A portion of the original FATCO property is located south of the Willimantic River (the Site). That parcel, also known as Mill No. 4, consists of approximately 22 acres of land in a residential/industrial area of the Town. That property is bordered to the north and west by the Willimantic River, to the east by vacant land, and to the south by railroad tracks and residential properties along Manners Avenue. The mill building formerly on the Site was destroyed by a fire in 1995. After the fire, two small dilapidated buildings remained on the Site.

## SUMMARY:

From July 2002-May 2003, a Superfund removal action was performed on the foundation area of the building destroyed by fire. The removal action addressed asbestos -containing material (ACM) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that remained after the June 1995 fire.

After reviewing past environmental studies of the area, it was determined that a site investigation by EPA was necessary to determine if contamination existed in the soil on site. After completing a site investigation, lab results indicated the presence of heavy metals (mainly lead and arsenic) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soils, which resulted from the burning of coal and other materials on site. EPA is working with a Potential Responsible Party (PRP) and the State of Connecticut to develop a plan to remediate the contaminated soils at the site.

## NEXT STEPS:

Soil sampling is currently being conducted to determine the extent of contamination in the wetland areas and to confirm concentrations in other areas. This is being done

*continued >*

## KEY CONTACTS:

### KELSEY O'NEIL

EPA New England  
Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
(617) 918-1799  
oneil.kelsey@epa.gov

### KAREN WAY

EPA On-Scene Coordinator  
(617) 918-1256  
way.karen@epa.gov

## GENERAL INFO:

### EPA NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Square  
Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(617) 918-1111  
www.epa.gov/region1/

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in an effort to minimize the amount of disturbance in these sensitive areas. Soil sampling is also being conducted to determine baseline bioavailability of the contaminants in the soil. Bioavailability is the extent to which a body can absorb a substance.

After careful consideration, a two-step approach has been selected. First, soils from a

few selected areas with the highest concentrations will be removed and disposed of off site. Across the majority of the former ash-disposal area, it has been determined that a biosolid treatment will be the preferred approach to reduce the bioavailability of the contaminants in the soil. This is a very "Green" approach to remediating the Site. This technology will be applied if bench scale testing is successful. Alter-

natively, the area will be covered with a layer of clean soil.

Activities that will be occurring over the course of the Spring/Summer will include clearing and grubbing of the areas to be excavated/treated, biosolid application with a top soil cover, grading and reseedling.

