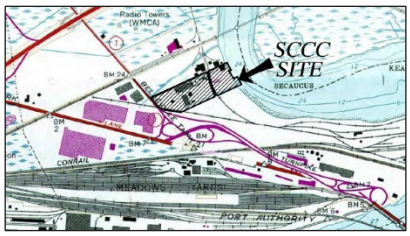
Update on Cleanup Activities at the Standard Chlorine Chemical Company Superfund Site
Kearny, New Jersey

Community Update **OCTOBER 2017**



Site Location: 1025-1035 Belleville Turnpike, Kearny, Hudson County, New Jersey, 07032

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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If you would like information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by the EPA, please contact:

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting an environmental cleanup at the Standard Chlorine Chemical Company Superfund Site in Kearny, NJ. This update has been prepared to inform the community, local officials and other interested parties of the status of activities at the Standard Chlorine site.

Site Overview:

The approximately 42-acre site is located in a heavily industrialized area along the Hackensack River. From the early 1900s to the 1990s, several chemical manufacturing and processing activities took place on the site. These activities included the manufacture of naphthalene products, moth balls, drain cleaner, deodorizers, and lead-acid batteries, among other things. In the past, contamination came from several sources, including two lagoons located on the eastern portion of the site as well as damaged tanks and containers containing pollutants. Several abandoned buildings in various states of disrepair were also located on the site.

Cleanup Progress:

The previous Community Update was issued in August 2015 and described progress on the Remedial Investigation and Focused Feasibility Study (RI/FFS) of the site being performed by potentially responsible parties under a 2013 agreement with the EPA. The RI/FFS was an investigation of the nature and extent of contamination at the site in order to develop and evaluate potential cleanup options.

In summer 2016, the EPA conducted major community involvement activities in lieu of a community update. The EPA issued a public notice in The Observer on July 27 announcing a 30-day public comment period from July 27 to August 26, 2016 on the EPA's preferred cleanup alternative and the RI/FFS documents. A public meeting was held on August 16, 2016 at Kearny Town Hall. On September 30, 2016, after considering the public comments received, the EPA finalized the cleanup plan in a Record of Decision for the site. EPA's final plan requires a cap that would extend over the remaining uncovered areas and upgrades to existing covers to prevent soil disturbance. Some areas of the site where soil is heavily contaminated have already been covered by a cap to prevent contaminants from spreading. Five dilapidated buildings remaining on the site will be demolished. Maintenance and operation of all the previous work will continue, including expansion of the pump and treat system that was installed to clean up polluted groundwater.

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Land use controls such as a deed notice and other restrictions will prohibit the use of the groundwater and prohibit using the site for any residential purposes. The EPA will conduct a review within five years to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup. The cleanup is estimated to cost $11 million and take six months to construct once the engineering designs have been approved.

Currently, the EPA is negotiating with potentially responsible parties to perform the work necessary to design and construct the cleanup set forth in the Record of Decision.

Site Background

Prior to placement on the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in 2007, the site was sampled and studied by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and a group of parties potentially responsible for the contamination. Previous work also included extensive interim cleanup measures as outlined later in this update. EPA continues to work with the state and the potentially responsible parties to implement the cleanup measures described in the Record of Decision.

The Standard Chlorine site is being addressed in two stages: interim actions designed to stop contaminated groundwater and surface water from moving to the Hackensack River, and a long-term cleanup based on a comprehensive approach to the entire site.

Current Site Conditions

Information Repositories

Kearny Public Library
318 Kearny Avenue
Kearny, NJ 07032
201.998.2666
admin@kearnylibrary.org

U.S. EPA Region 2
Superfund Records Center
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
212.637.4308

Or visit the EPA's website:
www.epa.gov/superfund/standard-chlorine

Site Investigation: Drilling

Geotextile Fabric

Sealing Buildings

Assessment and Cleanup Milestones

1984-1989

Initial site investigations completed. In October 1989, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Standard Chlorine Chemical Co. Inc. (SCCC) entered into an Administrative Consent Order requiring SCCC to plan and implement the following:

- Interim Remedial Measures to prevent potential contact with materials in the lagoon area and to secure damaged tanks and containers
- A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
- Selected remedial alternatives

1991-1993

Remedial Investigation and Interim Remedial Measures completed, including:

- Installation of security fencing
- Addition of soil to the lagoon berm
- Placement of stabilizing geotextile and rip rap along the Hackensack River shoreline
- Removal of the contents of five above-ground storage tanks
- Repackaging of asbestos-containing material
- Installation of surface covers (geotextile fabric/aggregate or asphalt)

1994-2002

Supplemental Remedial Investigations and Site Characterization Activities completed

2003-2009

Interim Response Action planning, design, and permitting completed

2007

Standard Chlorine site added to the Superfund National Priorities List

2008-2009

Phase II Supplemental Remedial Investigation and Pre-Design Investigations completed

2010

Removal Action completed (consisting of the sealing of openings in former process buildings to mitigate the potential transport of wind-borne particulates)

Assessment and Cleanup Milestones

2010-2011

Interim Response Action implemented, including:

- Construction of a physical barrier wall system
- Installation of a hydraulic control system (consisting of ground water extraction wells and treatment system)
- Installation of a dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) recovery system
- Lagoon dewatering, backfilling, and surface covering
- Management of near shore sediments
- Management of sediments in the south ditch and construction of stormwater management system
- Construction of consolidation area
- Wetland and shoreline mitigation
- Septic tank closure
- Transformer pad removal and remediation
- Site restoration
- Air monitoring activities

2010-2012

Demolition of select buildings

2012-2015

Interim Response Action Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring and RI/FFS Activities completed, including:

- Site Characterization Summary Report
- RI/FFS Work Plan
- Site Characterization Summary Report Addendum
- Pathway Analysis Report/Memorandum on Exposure Scenarios and Assumptions
- Identification of Candidate Technologies Memorandum
- Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment
- Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment
- Remedial Investigation Report
- Development and Screening of Remedial Alternatives

2016

- Cultural Resources Survey completed
- Additional field investigations completed
- Focused Feasibility Study Report completed
- Proposed Plan issued by EPA
- Record of Decision issued by EPA
- Continued maintenance and monitoring of Interim Response Action

Barrier Wall

DNAPL Recovery Wells

Slurry Wall Installation

Treatment Plant