

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund site, please contact one of the following:

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General information on the Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund site may be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/np/diazchemical/> or at the site repository:  
Community Free Library, 86 Public Square, Holley, New York 14470  
(585)-638-6987

## UPDATE

The first phase of thermal treatment of soil at the Diaz Chemical Corporation Superfund site, located in the village of Holley, New York, has been completed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will use the information gained by treating about 10 percent of the soil to design the larger scale system needed to treat the remainder of the contaminated soil. Phase two is currently being designed using data and information obtained from the first phase.

## PHASE ONE TREATMENT

Phase One of the thermal treatment was conducted to obtain design criteria for full-scale treatment, and included information to help determine the appropriate treatment temperature, technology and duration for the second phase. In addition, EPA assessed the effectiveness of conventional vapor and groundwater treatment technologies. Specifically, soil vapor and groundwater were extracted and captured using heat. The extracted vapors and groundwater were then treated by running them through granular activated carbon.

All monitoring data indicate that the thermal treatment system used in the first phase of cleanup effectively removed site-related organic chemicals from the soil and groundwater in the treatment area. All process equipment and associated piping is currently being decommissioned and removed off-site. It is estimated that this will be completed by the end of November 2018, at which time the site will be inactive while EPA uses the information to develop plans for the second phase of the cleanup.

## PHASE TWO TREATMENT

Design preparation for Phase Two is currently underway, with a planned contract to be awarded in 2019. The remaining area of the site designated for thermal treatment will occur in stages. Construction of the Phase Two system will likely start in late 2019 or early 2020. Currently, it is projected that it may take up to four years to complete the Phase Two treatment.



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The site is located about 25 miles west of Rochester and includes the five-acre Diaz Chemical Corporation facility, which is located at 40 Jackson Street, Village of Holley, Orleans County, New York, and parts of the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Diaz Chemical manufactured specialty organic chemicals for the agricultural, pharmaceutical, photographic, color and dye, and personal care products industries. The facility had a long history of chemical releases into the environment from 1975 to 2002.

In January 2002, a reactor vessel in a process building overheated, causing its safety valve to rupture and release approximately 75 gallons of a chemical mixture through a roof stack vent. The release consisted, primarily, of a mixture of steam, toluene, and 2-chloro-6-fluorophenol, as well as related chemicals. The mixture landed on properties in the residential neighborhood immediately adjacent to the facility and was visible as red-colored droplets. As a result of the release, several residents voluntarily relocated to area hotels with assistance from Diaz Chemical.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA performed sampling of indoor air, soil, interior surfaces, and household items in the affected neighborhood. The data indicated that there were no immediate or short-term threats to people's health. Therefore, no further actions related to the residential properties were deemed necessary.

In June 2003, Diaz Chemical filed for bankruptcy and abandoned the Diaz Chemical facility, leaving behind large volumes of chemicals in drums and tanks. From 2003-2007, EPA removed all hazardous substances and dismantled the Diaz Chemical production buildings. On July 22, 2004, the site was placed on EPA's National Priorities List.

In March 2005, EPA issued a final cleanup plan calling for EPA to buy property and permanently relocate eight owner-occupants and two individual tenant families who had remained in temporary quarters since January 2002. The eight homes that were acquired by EPA were secured and maintained.

EPA performed a comprehensive study of the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess potential risks to human health and the environment and develop, screen and evaluate alternative treatment technologies.

On September 26, 2012, EPA selected a cleanup plan for the site that included thermal treatment of the contaminated soil and groundwater located at the Diaz Chemical property and natural processes to address the groundwater contamination downgradient of the source areas. The cleanup plan also included building demolition to allow access to contaminated soils on-site.

The study of the site determined that site-related contamination does not exist in the surrounding residential area and, therefore, a neighborhood cleanup was not necessary. Accordingly, EPA determined that the sale or transfer of the eight EPA-owned properties was consistent with the final cleanup and negotiated an agreement with the Village of Holley and the Village of Holley Development Corporation (VHDC) whereby EPA transferred the eight properties to the VHDC in June 2017. The VHDC, working with a local realtor and law firm, then sold the houses in September 2017.



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