SEPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Community Update

Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund Site Ringwood, New Jersey

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For more information about the site, contact:

Joe Gowers Remedial Project Manager 212-637-4413 gowers.joe@epa.gov

Pat Seppi Community Involvement Coordinator 646-369-0068 seppi.pat@epa.gov

For more information on the site or to review the Proposed Plan, visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ringwood-mines

Proposed Cleanup Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed a plan to address groundwater and mine water contamination at the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund site. The proposed plan proposes a installing wells near the Peters Mine Pit and Peters Mine Pit Airshaft perpendicular to the direction of groundwater flow and introducing an oxygenreleasing compound to the aquifer to help break down organic contaminants. EPA would also require long-term groundwater and surface water monitoring to ensure that contaminants to do impact any drinking water sources. In addition, the EPA is proposing introducing granular activated carbon and resin into the Peters Mine Pit Airshaft to treat organic contaminants. Once the granular activated carbon and resin are added to the base of the Peters Mine Pit Airshaft, the airshaft would then be filled to its surface with a grout mix and sealed with a concrete surface cap.

Past Cleanup Activities

During the 1960s and early 1970s, the Ford Motor Company disposed of waste generated at the Ford factory located in Mahwah, New Jersey at the Ringwood mines site. Ford waste, including plant trash, paint sludge, drummed waste and other non-liquid plant wastes, was disposed of at various locations on the site property including open mining pits and a mining waste disposal area.

In 1988, Ford removed over 7000 cubic yards of paint sludge and associated soil from the site. Subsequently, in September 1988, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) which selected long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water as the remedy for the site. This ROD noted that the known areas of paint sludge had been removed from the site. However, after the ROD was issued, newly discovered pockets of paint sludge and drums were removed from the site in 1990, 1995 and from 2004 thru 2014. In response to the discovery of new material on the site, EPA began additional investigations into the nature and extent of contamination across the site.

In total, approximately 65,000 tons of paint sludge and associated soil have been removed from the site. In addition, from 2011 through 2014, EPA removed lead-contaminated soil from residential properties at the site.

After completing investigations of the disposal areas at the site, EPA issued a ROD in June 2014 selecting a remedy to address waste at two former iron mining pits and a former mining waste disposal area - Peter's Mine Pit, the Cannon Mine Pit, and the O'Connor Disposal Area. The engineering design of this remedy is complete and it is anticipated that construction of the remedy will begin in 2020.



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

Site Background

The Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund site consists of approximately 500 acres in a historic iron mining district in the Borough of Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey. Portions of the site are currently used as State of New Jersey parkland (Ringwood State Park), utility corridors (Public Service Electric & Gas and Rockland Electric Company), Borough of Ringwood facilities, including a Recycling Center and a Public Works yard, a power sub-station, and open space (Borough of Ringwood property). In addition, 48 residential properties are dispersed throughout the site. The site is drained by four streams that ultimately lead to the Wanaque Reservoir, located approximately one mile south of the site.

The historic disposal of paint sludge and other waste from Ford's Mahwah facility contaminated soil with lead and arsenic. Groundwater and mine water in the Peter's Mine Pit Area is contaminated with volatile organic contaminants, including benzene, as well as 1,4-dioxane. Surface water in streams that drain the Peter's Mine Pit Area of the site contains 1,4-dioxane. However, 1,4-dioxane has not been detected in these streams near the Wanaque Reservoir.

EPA has broken up its cleanup of the Ringwood site is separated into different phases, or Operable Units (OUs). Cleanup activities to address different aspects are proceeding separately, resulting in a more efficient and expeditious cleanup of the entire site. The first operable unit, OU1, was originally intended to comprehensively address the site. EPA subsequently created two additional operable units, OU2 and OU3. Operable unit 2 includes the waste, fill material and soil located in the Peters Mine Pit, Cannon Mine Pit and the O'Connor Disposal Areas. The third area, OU3, includes contaminated groundwater and mine water at the site and is the subject of the plan just proposed by EPA. EPA has also worked to address paint sludge and associated soil contamination which were located on non-residential properties outside of the Peters Mine Pit, Cannon Mine Pit and O'Connor Disposal, as well as the cleanup of paint sludge and lead-contaminated soil located on residential properties at the site, which have been addressed separately using different Superfund authorities.



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