

Community Update

April 2020

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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Construction activities associated with the removal of PCB-contaminated soil and sediment from Little Thunder Brook (formerly T11A) at the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site have been suspended for the 2020 construction season for the reasons outlined below.

In October 2019, construction activities were discontinued at Little Thunder Brook for the winter season, as scheduled, and the work area was winterized. In 2019, excavation was performed in the first 420 feet of Little Thunder Brook, which revealed more extensive contamination deep into the banks that caused significant delays to the project schedule. Over the winter months, EPA received data collected downstream of the first 420 feet indicating that additional contamination is also present deep into the banks in the lower portions of Little Thunder Brook, presenting significant constructability and safety challenges that warrant a serious reevaluation of the cleanup approach.

As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at contaminated sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority. The size and

complexity of the Little Thunder Brook removal action project also presents health and safety issues related to COVID-19 because of the need for multiple team members to work in close proximity to each other (including EPA personnel, General Electric (GE) personnel and their contractors). Understandably, the uncertainty associated with the evolving COVID-19 situation makes it even more challenging to plan and schedule construction activities for the upcoming season.

With that said, EPA is preparing to allow GE to suspend current construction activities in Little Thunder Brook for the 2020 season. Our goal will be to work with GE, the Town, the CAG and other stakeholders as a priority as we reevaluate the approach in Little Thunder Brook. EPA will provide information on a revised schedule when such schedule is determined.

Other ongoing remedial investigations and feasibility studies and other ongoing field activities at the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site, such as groundwater extraction and treatment plant operations, are currently scheduled to continue. EPA will continue to work closely with state and local health officials, and all partners and stakeholders, to make determinations about site work based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It is important to know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA maintains its ability to respond to human health or environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to address immediate risks from releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

For more information on The Dewey Loeffel Landfill site, please visit: www.epa.gov/superfund/dewey-loeffel-landfill

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>



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