

If you have general questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:

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For more information on the American Cyanamid Superfund site, visit:
www.epa.gov/superfund/american-cyanamid

Site Status

Work is expected to start the week of May 18 on a demonstration project that will test all aspects of the cleanup plan selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2018 to address waste disposal areas, called Impoundments 1 and 2, of the American Cyanamid Superfund site in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The demonstration project will include excavating a portion of the acid tar material, dewatering the material, and transporting and disposing the material at several different disposal facilities for comparison.

EPA's cleanup plan for Impoundments 1 and 2 calls for excavating and removing acid tar waste from the impoundments, destroying the excavated waste at an off-site facility, stabilizing any materials found to have been impacted by the acid tar waste, backfilling the excavated areas, and placing a protective cover over the entire area.

The demonstration project will allow EPA to gather detailed information to support the full-scale implementation of the cleanup plan. During the demonstration project, approximately

500 tons of the estimated 44,700 tons of acid tar to be addressed by the cleanup plan, will be remediated in accordance with the approved plan.

The Demonstration Project

The demonstration project will be conducted in two stages:

- *Stage 1* includes preparing the site for the demonstration project, which is expected to take five weeks. Work activities will include widening a portion of the berm surrounding waste disposal area 2, as well as setup of the acid tar dewatering equipment, construction support facilities, the community air monitoring plan, and the traffic flow signage and exclusion zones.
- *Stage 2* includes implementing the demonstration project, which is tentatively planned to begin on June 22 and last for approximately three months.

The work will be conducted between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and periodically on Saturdays. Up to 12 workers will be onsite at any one time, including oversight personnel. Approximately five trucks will travel to and from the site per day, to deliver materials for widening the berm during Stage 1 and to transport the excavated acid tar during Stage 2. Trucks will enter and leave the site via Bufflehead Road and Polhemus Lane.

Health and Safety

A comprehensive health and safety plan was developed for the demonstration project to protect both the

workers and the community. The plan includes monitoring air from locations both near the waste disposal areas and at the perimeter of the site for air quality and vapor emissions that could cause odors. Real-time monitors will be used to notify the team of any exceedances of action levels. Excavation activities will be conducted slowly to minimize air emissions. The rate of excavation can be slowed further or temporarily stopped, if necessary, to address air quality concerns. If needed, a non-toxic, biodegradable mixture to cover the emission source will be available.

Site History

The American Cyanamid Superfund site is 435-acres and was used for numerous chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing operations for more than 90 years. The soil and groundwater of the impoundments were contaminated with volatile organic compounds, semi-VOCs, and metals. All manufacturing at the site stopped in 1999, with most buildings demolished by 2000. Wyeth Holdings LLC, a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., acquired the site in 2009 and assumed responsibility for its cleanup. EPA assumed the role of lead agency from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in 2009.



EPA issued a cleanup plan for the majority of the American Cyanamid Superfund site in 2012, which included six waste disposal areas, site soil, and all site-related contaminated groundwater. The groundwater treatment portion of that remedy has been operating since March 2019 and the design of the soil portion of that remedy is ongoing.

Impoundments 1 and 2, which are just over four acres in size, are being addressed separate from other areas of the site. They contain approximately 55,000 cubic yards of acid tar waste, which is highly acidic. Due to the unique and highly complex nature of the contaminants within Impoundments 1 and 2 and their proximity (700 feet) to the Raritan River, these two impoundments were not included in the site-wide remedy and were evaluated separately.



COVID-19 Considerations

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 Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

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.