EPA FINALIZES A CLEANUP PLAN FOR THE NEW CASSEL/HICKSVILLE GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SUPERFUND SITE (OPERABLE UNIT 3)

NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK

APRIL 2024   **REGION 2**

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

The EPA's Cleanup Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected a cleanup plan for a portion of the New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund site. EPA's plan is to install underground wells and pipes in the area to remove contaminated groundwater and treat it at a water treatment facility. This will prevent people from potentially being exposed to the contaminated groundwater in the future, minimize the spread of the contaminated groundwater, and treat the groundwater to meet strict federal and state standards. The plan also requires that the groundwater is monitored and uses existing county and state restrictions to ensure that drinking water wells are not installed on site without a permit.
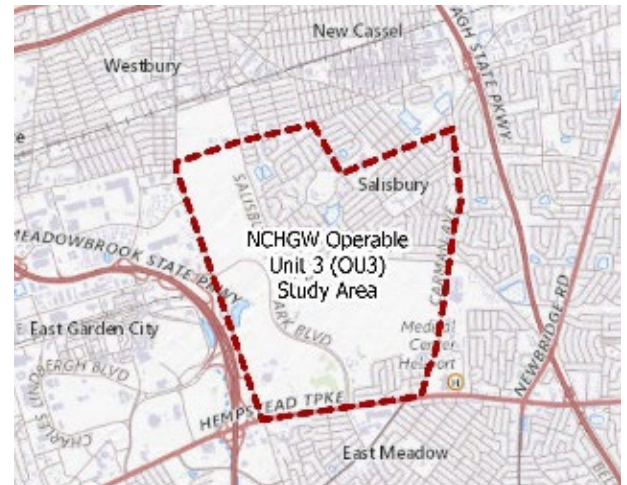

Figure 1 Map outlining Operable Unit 3 of the New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund site.

Before the cleanup work can begin, the EPA will develop the detailed engineering plan for the cleanup, which is called a remedial design. During this phase of work, the EPA will decide the final locations of the groundwater pumping wells and water treatment facility and will also evaluate how the treated water will be released.

This phase of work will take several years. The EPA will coordinate with local and state officials and ensure that there is consistent engagement with impacted community members during the design process. Once the detailed engineering plan is complete, the EPA will update community members about the finalized plan and the beginning of cleanup work. At any point during the cleanup process, community members can reach out to the site team with questions or concerns.

Site Background

The New Cassel/Hicksville Groundwater Contamination Superfund site is an area of widespread groundwater contamination in the Towns of North Hempstead, Hempstead, and Oyster Bay in Nassau County, New York. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation found several sources of groundwater contamination between 1988 and 2010. The groundwater is contaminated primarily

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are contaminants that evaporate easily into the air and dissolve in water. VOCs are often used as ingredients in paints, solvents, aerosol sprays, cleaners, disinfectants, automotive products, and dry-cleaning fluids.

with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from past industrial and commercial activity. At the state's request, the EPA added the site to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List in September 2011. Residents in the impacted areas of Hempstead, Hicksville, and Westbury receive drinking water from public water supplies that have treatment systems installed so that the drinking water meets federal and state standards. During the process of creating the cleanup plan, the EPA installed groundwater monitoring wells in and around the Eisenhower Park Golf Course and the Salisbury neighborhood from 2017 to 2021. The EPA used these wells to understand where the contaminated groundwater is located, what it is contaminated with, and what could be done to treat it.

EPA Contact Information

Maya Greally
Community Involvement Coordinator
212-637-3588
Greally.Maya@epa.gov

Joel Waddell
Community Involvement Coordinator
212-637-3590
Waddell.Joel@epa.gov

Aidan Conway
Remedial Project Manager
212-637-4227
Conway.aidan@epa.gov

For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact Jim Haklar of EPA's Regional Public Liaison Office, at **haklar.james@epa.gov**, or (732) 906-6817 or toll free at (888) 283-7626

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process

ASSESSMENT

- Discovery of Contamination
- Preliminary Assessment
- Site Inspection
- National Priorities List (NPL) Site Listing

CHARACTERIZATION

Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study & Proposed Plan

SELECTION OF REMEDY

Record of Decision

CLEANUP

Remedial Design

Remedial Action

POST-CONSTRUCTION

Operation and Maintenance

NPL Deletion

Five-Year Reviews