

SAFETY LIGHT CORP.

Superfund Site



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania

October 2018

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Continues the Cleanup at the Safety Light Corp. Superfund Site

EPA issues a second Explanation of Significant Differences for Cleanup Plan for Operable Unit 3

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a second Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the cleanup plan for contaminated soils, or Operable Unit-3 (OU-3), at the Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site, located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

EPA is cleaning up the Site in three separate parts, called "operable units," or OUs. This fact sheet provides a brief summary of additional work that will be performed to clean up contaminated soils, described in the ESD.

In June 2016, EPA issued an Early-Interim Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-3 to cleanup contamination in the West Dump, West Lagoon, East Dump, and East Lagoon portions of the Site.

In November 2016, a removal assessment identified additional areas within the abandoned canal and/or 100-year floodplain that had radionuclide soil concentrations above the site-specific soil risk-based screening levels.

This 2018 ESD further modifies the remedy selected in the Early-Interim ROD to expand and continue the excavation of contaminated soils within and immediately adjacent to the abandoned canal, up to and including the entire length of the canal on the Site, as necessary. The exact construction specifications of the former canal are unknown; however, the remaining on-Site portion that will be excavated is approximately 3,000 cubic yards of radionuclide-contaminated soils/debris. If the entire canal requires excavation, the total cost of the OU3

Early-Interim Remedial Action, as modified by the 2017 ESD and this 2018 ESD, is estimated at \$16,600,000.

This current modification does not fundamentally alter the basic features of the selected remedy with respect to scope, performance, and cost.

During the work, excavated soils are surveyed within the Soil Staging Area to determine if any off-spec material or discrete radioactive objects are present. Any discrete radioactive objects are assessed and disposed of as appropriate. Soils are loaded into Intermodal Containers (IMCs) and shipped offsite for disposal. Additional locations within the former canal with contaminated soils and/or discrete objects will be excavated based upon the results of assessment activities. Perimeter and work zone air monitoring are conducted during soil handling activities. No radioactivity has been detected above applicable action levels.

As of September 2018, approximately 19,428 tons of soil have been loaded into 1,172 IMCs during this phase of the site cleanup. A total of 1,129 IMCs have been shipped offsite.

The remainder of OU-3 will be addressed by future response actions when the OU-3 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is complete. The final remedy will be documented in a final OU-3 ROD.

The full text of the June 2016 Early-Interim ROD and the August 2017 and August 2018 ESDs can be viewed at: www.epa.gov/superfund/safetyslight.

Site Background

The Safety Light Corp. Site is located near Bloomsburg, PA, along Old Berwick Road. It is about 10 acres and bordered mostly by residential properties and the Susquehanna River. **Past** activities at the Site **included** the manufacturing of self-illuminated watches and instrument dials, smoke detectors, exit signs, and other products containing radioactive materials (such as radium-226, strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium).

The cleanup is divided into three separate Operable Units (OUs). OU-1 addresses onsite buildings and debris; OU-2 addresses onsite groundwater; and OU-3 addresses soils, surface water, and sediment. Initially, EPA unearthed and removed drums and other containers of historical radioactive wastes.

In phases, EPA removed significant amounts of stored materials from within the buildings for proper offsite disposal, then demolished all onsite structures and removed related debris.

EPA continues to coordinate with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) during cleanup activities.

CONTACT US

Cathleen Kennedy

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator
215-814-2476
kennedy.cathleen@epa.gov

John Banks

EPA Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3214
banks.john-d@epa.gov

Ann DiDonato

EPA On Scene Coordinator
215-814-3311
didonato.ann@epa.gov

RESOURCES

For more information about the Safety Light Corporation Superfund Site, please visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/safetylight>

Site-related documents are available in the Administrative Record database at:
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collections/03/AR/PAD987295276>

These documents can also be viewed locally at the Bloomsburg Area Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

Address Label Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Attn: Cathleen Kennedy
1650 Arch Street (Mailcode 3HS52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

