



EPA Continues Oversight of Central Chemical Site Cleanup

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to oversee the cleanup of the Central Chemical Superfund Site, located along Mitchell Avenue in Hagerstown, Maryland. The Central Chemical Site Group, a group of companies, is performing the work with the oversight of EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The cleanup is being handled in two components:

Operable Unit 1 (OU1): addresses contaminated soils and waste within the former waste lagoon; and

Operable Unit 2 (OU2): addresses contaminated groundwater.

What has been done to cleanup the Central Chemical Site?

The following is a summary of construction work and other activities completed since 2017:

2017:

- Four extraction wells were installed around the former waste lagoon for a groundwater pump and treat system.
- Piping and electricity were also installed for the pump and treat system, which will be located near Mitchell Avenue.
- Concrete slabs and foundations were demolished and stockpiled on-site.

- Air monitoring was performed to protect the community from demolition dust and potential vapors.

2018:

- Dioxin was identified as a new contaminant in groundwater at the Site. Cleanup activities were delayed to investigate the extent of the dioxin.
- Dioxin concentrations identified are low and fell below drinking water standards.
- Additional groundwater sampling from on-site and off-site wells was conducted in October 2018.
- Residential properties were sampled for manganese to determine if a soil cleanup would be required beyond the Central Chemical property.

2019:

- Soil sampling results from residential properties confirmed that a soil cleanup is not required beyond the Central Chemical property.
- Design of the pump and treat system began, including completion of an aquifer pump test to determine the number of wells necessary to completely capture the contaminated groundwater around the former waste lagoon.
- Revised timeline was approved by EPA to complete construction of the pump and treat system by approximately the end of 2020.



What are the next steps in the Central Chemical cleanup?

The following work is planned to complete the remedy and investigate dioxin contamination at the Site:

2020:

- Construction of the pump and treat system will be completed.
- Pesticide contamination will be evaluated in springs and surface water.
- Additional sampling will be conducted to verify and confirm low-level detections of dioxins in the groundwater.

2021:

- In-situ stabilization will treat the waste in the former lagoon by binding and trapping the waste into a solid concrete block.
- Contaminated soil from other areas of the Site will be excavated and consolidated on the solidified lagoon and then capped.
- Revegetation activities will follow when all cleanup work is completed. The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil, graded and vegetated with grasses.

2022:

- Long-term operation and maintenance of the pump and treat system and the capped area will begin.

As a reminder, Hagerstown residents receive their drinking water from the municipal water supply. This supply pumps water from the Potomac River up-gradient of the Site and is not impacted by Site-related groundwater contamination.

Site Background

Beginning in the 1930s, a chemical plant blended and packaged agricultural pesticides and fertilizers. The pesticide blending production occurred at the Central Chemical property in 1940 and ceased in 1965. All operations at the plant stopped in 1984. The Site was added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in September 1997.

For more information about the Site, visit:
www.epa.gov/superfund/centralchemical

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