

PECK IRON & METAL SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

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

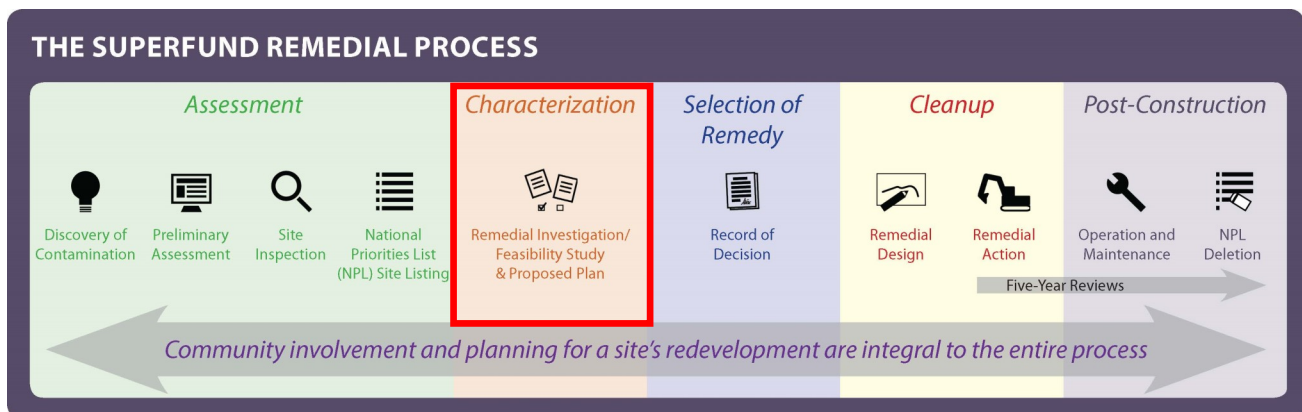
Portsmouth, Virginia

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EPA COMPLETES REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a Remedial Investigation for the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site in October 2019. The investigation was conducted to characterize the site conditions, determine the nature and extent of the contamination and assess risk to human health and the environment. The Remedial Investigation found that the soil is contaminated with PCBs, dioxins and furans, radium-226 and daughter products, and heavy metals including arsenic, cobalt, chromium and lead.

These contaminants have been found in Site groundwater, sediment-and surface water, and some were detected in fish within Paradise Creek. This information will help EPA evaluate cleanup options during the Feasibility Study.



What is the Peck Iron & Metal Site?

The Peck Iron and Metal Site is a 33-acre inactive scrap metal recovery facility located in Portsmouth, Virginia immediately southwest of the intersection of Elm Avenue and Victory Boulevard. The business purchased and processed metal scrap from military bases, other governmental entities and local businesses including electric power and rail companies. Items processed included: electrical transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead/acid batteries, components of naval vessels, aircraft and tanks, insulated copper cables and demilitarized ordnance. Some of the items handled at the facility contained radioactive material, specifically radium-226. Radium-226 was used to produce items such as self-illuminated instrument dials and watch faces. The Site was added to the National Priorities List in 2009.

What was done during the Remedial Investigation?

A comprehensive investigation at the Peck Iron and Metal Site began in June 2015 to assess risks and determine the nature and extent of contamination. EPA activities included:

- Collecting surface soil samples
- Collecting subsurface soil samples from test pits and boreholes
- Collecting surface water and sediment samples from Site wetlands and Paradise Creek
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells and collecting groundwater samples
- Collecting oysters and fish to estimate the risk to people who consume fish and shellfish from Paradise Creek

The Remedial Investigation is now available for review at: www.epa.gov/superfund/peck.

Note: Groundwater is not being used as a public water supply source.

What are the next steps in the cleanup?

- The Feasibility Study is underway and is expected to be completed in late 2020. During the study, EPA will evaluate different cleanup options to address soil contamination.
- In 2021, EPA will issue a proposed cleanup plan for public review and comment to address soil contamination.



Site Location Map

Questions? Contact Us!

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For more Information about the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site, please visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/peck