

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

December 2023

Site Update

EPA issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit 1 (OU1) of the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site (the Site) in July 2023. The ROD outlines the selected remedy for OU1 to address contaminated soil, fill material, and estuarine wetland sediments. The remedy selected is off-site treatment/disposal of principal threat waste and on-site consolidation/capping of low-level threat waste with a low-permeability cover. EPA is currently performing the Remedial Design to design the components of the remedy.

During the week of December 4th, EPA began investigation activities at the Site to support the design of the remedy. The work will include vegetation clearance (removal of grass, small trees, and shrubs), a topographical survey and sampling of soil/fill to delineate waste and wetland areas. Community members may see EPA and our contractors on Site performing this work. EPA will ensure that appropriate precautions are taken to monitor dust and prevent airborne contaminant migration during field activities. This initial work is expected to be completed by the end of February 2024. Concurrently, EPA is working on a Remedial Investigation (RI) for Operable Unit 2 (OU2) of the Site. This will involve additional field work that EPA is currently planning.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING

EPA will be hosting a public meeting to provide community members with an update on the activities at the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site and to answer community questions.

Date: January 22, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Portsmouth City Hall, 6th Floor
801 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

For more information on the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site, please visit our website:

www.epa.gov/superfund/peck.



Site Background

The Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site is located in Portsmouth, Virginia and was added to the Superfund program's National Priorities List on November 4, 2009. The Site includes the Peck Property, the Sherwin-Williams Property, and surrounding areas (such as Paradise Creek) where hazardous substances associated with past operations at the Peck facility have come to be located. The Peck Property includes five parcels totaling approximately 34 acres and comprises the majority of the former Peck facility. The Sherwin-Williams property is one parcel comprising approximately 3 acres and was part of the Peck Facility until approximately 1970. The Peck Property and the Sherwin-Williams Property are collectively referred to as the Site Property, which is a combined six parcels totaling approximately 37 acres.

The Peck Facility is an inactive scrap metal recovery facility that purchased, processed, stored, and shipped metal scrap from various military bases; other federal, state, and local government agencies; and local businesses. Scrap metal handled at the Peck facility included damaged and obsolete equipment, attachments, parts, and other miscellaneous materials, including components of scrapped naval vessels. The Department of Defense processed and sold scrap metal acquired from various military bases and Navy yards to Peck. Large, nongovernment sellers to Peck included electric utilities, railroads, landfills (sources of household appliances and miscellaneous scrap), and nearby ship repair facilities. Transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were disassembled at the Peck facility and the wiring was burned to remove insulation to recover copper wire. In addition, radioactive debris (such as gauges with radioactive paint to allow use in low-light conditions) has been found at the Site.

Work and investigations at the Site have been broken down into two Operable Units. OU1 is identified as the Source Control OU which encompasses all soils, fill material, and estuarine wetland sediments on or near the Site including those soils and wetlands which are continuing to release contaminants to the surrounding media. Operable Unit 2 (OU2) is identified as the Groundwater and Paradise Creek OU which will address groundwater, as well as sediments in Paradise Creek and the adjoining tidal wetlands outside the Site Property boundary, impacted by releases of hazardous substances at or from the Peck Property.

Questions? Please Contact Us!

Victoria Schantz

Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3246
schantz.victoria@epa.gov

Eric Pollard

Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5535
pollard.eric@epa.gov

Joel Mintzer

Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3228
mintzer.joel@epa.gov