

Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site



Community Update

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

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

Jackson Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania

April 2026

Construction to Begin This Summer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will start a stream restoration project at the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund site in summer 2026 to remove arsenic-contaminated sediment from the Tulpehocken Creek. The work is part of the site's modified cleanup plan and is expected to finish in late 2026.

During the cleanup, water in the Union Canal and Tulpehocken Creek will be temporarily diverted around the work area using bypass pumps so crews can excavate the contaminated sediment in dry conditions. The excavated material will be transported offsite for disposal, and the creek bed will be restored. An eroded section of the creek bank where the Union Canal meets Tulpehocken Creek will be stabilized to prevent further erosion.

The project area starts where Tulpehocken Creek meets Union Canal and extends about 430 feet downstream (east) of the South Fairlane Avenue Bridge.

What will the construction involve, and how will it affect me?

The project will include:

- Temporarily diverting creek water around the work area with pumps (bypass pumping).
- Excavating sediment contaminated with arsenic from the creek.
- Restoring the creek bed.
- Installing a retaining wall to prevent erosion where the Tulpehocken Creek and Union Canal meet.

During the work:

- You may see standard construction vehicles, such as excavators and dump trucks.
- There may be increased truck traffic on South Fairlane Avenue for sediment removal and material delivery to the site.
- The work area will be fenced and closed to the public for safety.

Temporary on-site storage of excavated sediment:

- There may be sediment temporarily stored (staged) inside the fenced work area before it is hauled off-site.
- Staged sediment will be placed on a protective liner to keep it off the ground and, if left overnight, covered with plastic sheeting.

Availability Session

You're invited to join us for an Availability Session. At this informal session, citizens can talk with EPA and other partners about the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund site and the planned construction.

Representatives will be available to answer questions related to the upcoming construction work at the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund site. Construction plans for this project will also be available for viewing.

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Location: Jackson Twp. Municipal Building
60 N Ramona Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Will the Construction Affect Jackson Recreational Park or Fairlane Avenue Park?

Construction will temporarily affect parking at Jackson Park. Construction vehicles will park only in designated areas. As work begins, residents will see trucks and equipment used to excavate, haul sediment, build a retaining wall, and perform other project activities. The work will take place in the same general location as work that occurred in summer 2023, but within a smaller area.

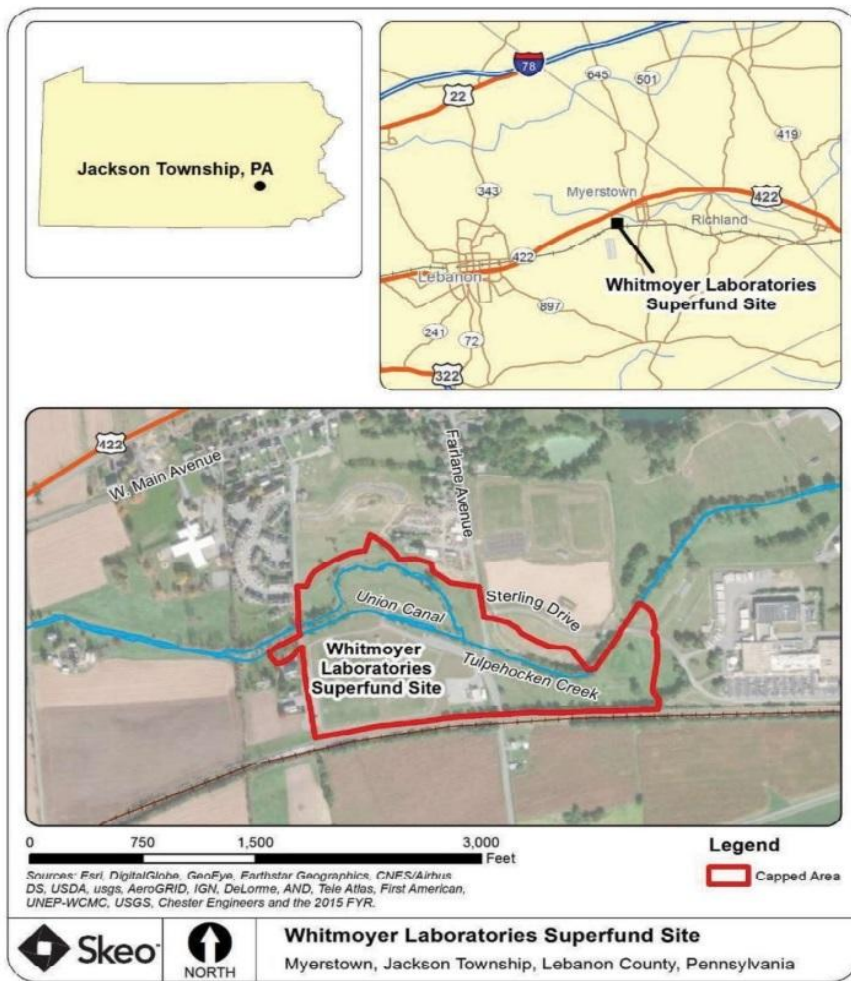
Site Location

The Whitmoyer Laboratories site is located on approximately 22 acres in Jackson Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, about 1 mile southwest of the Borough of Myerstown. The Union Canal and Tulpehocken Creek run along or near the site's northern boundary, and the Conrail (Reading) Railroad forms its southern boundary. Creamery Street borders the site on the west. The site is shown on the figure above.

Brief Site History

In 1934, C.W. Whitmoyer founded Whitmoyer Laboratories, Inc. (WLI), which manufactured veterinary pharmaceuticals through 1984. Arsenic compounds were produced and stored on site. The facility included 17 buildings, 23 storage tanks, a concrete storage vault, 15 lagoons, a waste pit, a petroleum products pipeline and pump station, and a railroad spur. Ownership changed from Whitmoyer to Rohm & Haas in 1964, to SmithKline Beecham in 1978, and to Stafford Laboratories in 1982. In 1964, Rohm & Haas detected arsenic contamination in soil, groundwater, and surface water. This pollution was caused by past disposal of waste in soil and unlined lagoons. Sludge from the lagoons was later placed in a concrete vault designed to contain it and other contaminated materials.

EPA proposed the site to the NPL in October 1984, and the site was added to the NPL in July 1986. The original soil cleanup was completed in 2002. Groundwater treatment and operation and maintenance of the landfill cap are ongoing.



The three maps above show the location of the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund site.

Questions? Please Contact Us!

Conlan Cornman

EPA Remedial Project Manager

215-814-5721

Cornman.Conlan@epa.gov

John Brakeall

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

215-814-5537

Brakeall.John@epa.gov

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WHITMOYER LABORATORIES SUPERFUND SITE

Follow the link or scan the QR code below to learn more about the site:

www.epa.gov/superfund/whitmoyer

