

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Galey and Lord Plant Site Society Hill, S.C.



Public Information Meeting

January 2024

Introduction

This fact sheet contains information about the Galey and Lord Plant Superfund Site (the Site) in Society Hill, South Carolina. The EPA is committed to engaging the community surrounding the Site. This fact sheet provides upcoming meeting information, Site description and background, cleanup plan, and planned future activities.

Public Information Meeting

In response to health concerns raised by the community during the September RI/FS kick-off meeting, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a Public Information Meeting with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the human health investigation relating to potential contamination associated with the Galey and Lord Plant Superfund Site (the Site). This process is a part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Conservation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. ATSDR will be available to answer questions regarding health issues of residents living near the site. The background of the site, the Superfund process, and potential community assistance will be provided during the meeting. EPA and ATSDR will meet one-on-one with individuals at Society Hill Library, 114 Carrigan, a sign-up sheet for 20 minutes spots will be available at Tuesday night meeting for those interested. If you are unavailable for Tuesday's night meeting, and would like to meet one-on-one Wednesday, please contact one of the below CIC's for scheduling.

Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

6:30 pm

Society Hill Community Center
325 Church Street
Society Hill, SC 29593

Site Description

The Site is located at 670 North Main Street, Society Hill, Darlington County, South Carolina. The geographical coordinates for the Site are latitudes 34.525036° longitude - 79.837463°. The 236-acre site is bordered to the east by the Great Pee Dee River, to the north by Cedar Creek, to the west by undeveloped land and residential property, and to the south by North Main Street.

Background

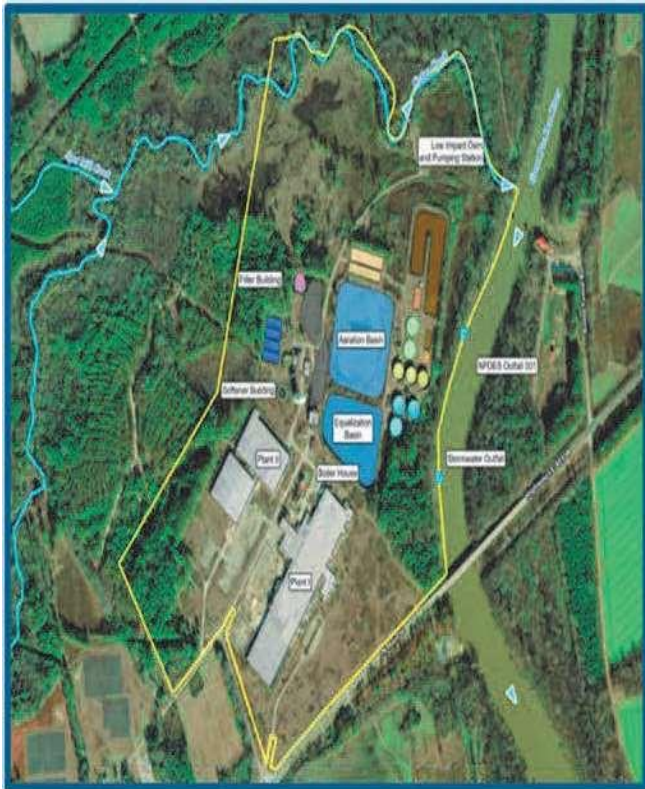
The Galey and Lord Plant is an abandoned former textile mill and finishing facility that operated from 1966 to 2016. The facility, including the wastewater treatment systems, was abandoned in 2016. Wastewater treatment tanks and lagoons were not remediated, or properly closed, and unlined ponds and basins are at capacity. The site operations have resulted in per- & poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFOA and PFOS) contamination. During facility operations, sludge was routinely removed from the wastewater treatment tanks and basins and spread on agricultural lands in a three-county area (approximately 15 miles) near the site. EPA's removal program has taken the lead in sampling private wells. As of January 2023, 105 private wells have been sampled; 26 of the wells have concentrations above EPA's Drinking Water Removal Management Level (RML) of 60 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS. As identified, EPA coordinates with residents at these homes to provide whole house water filtration systems.

The former textile plant property (**See Figure 1**) is approximately 235 acres. On site source areas include sludge storage

basins; an aeration basin; an equalization basin; sand drying beds; contaminated soil; abandoned wastewater treatment tanks; and additional source areas which have not yet been characterized. The sludge storage, aeration, and equalization basins lack containment elements.

Surface water bodies adjacent to the site have been contaminated and include palustrine forested wetlands along Cedar Creek and the Great Pee Dee River. The Great Pee Dee River also provides critical habitat for ecological receptors. A fish advisory is in place for the Great Pee Dee River, including the stretch adjacent to the site.

FIGURE 1: Galey & Lord Plant Layout



Site Cleanup Plan

Currently, the EPA is conducting a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS). During this process, sampling of soil, sediment and water will take place on-site and around the site. EPA and our contractor are currently developing the conceptual site model and site-specific plans. We anticipate sampling will begin in the spring of 2024. After completing the RI/FS, the EPA will issue a proposed plan to inform the public of the findings including potential human-health risks and how EPA will address site-related contamination. The public will be invited to submit comments on the proposed remedy to the EPA during a 30-day comment period.

Future Activities

The EPA will work with the community, state partners, and other interested stakeholders, to develop a cleanup plan for the Site, reflecting the Agency's commitment to safe, healthy communities and environmental protection. Community engagement and public outreach are core components of the EPA program activities. Community involvement activities will include, but not be limited to, solicitation of community input for community involvement plan, public notices, press releases, fact sheets, question and answer sheets, additional community meetings and/or open houses. These potential activities will make sure the public remains informed about Site activities throughout the cleanup process.

EPA CONTACTS

EPA Remedial Project Manager: Chris Jones

Phone: 404-971-9838/E-mail: Jones.ChristopherA@epa.gov

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator - Donnica Wiley

Phone: 678-634-0080/E-mail Wiley.Donnica@epa.gov**EPA**

Community Involvement Coordinator - Brenda Bronner

Phone: 678-350-4379/E-mail: Bronner.Brenda@epa.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Library computers are available for use to find information at the following link:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/galey-and-lord-plant>

Society Hill Library 114 Carrigan
Street Society Hill SC 29593
843-378-0026/ 404-562-8190