

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Smokey Mountain Smelters Site Knoxville, Tennessee



Community Update

May 2024

Cleanup Complete

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's cleanup of the Smokey Mountain Smelters Superfund Site is now complete. An investment of \$2.6 million made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) helped accelerate work at the Site, making it one of the first BIL-funded cleanups to be completed in the Southeast.

Redevelopment and reuse of formerly contaminated sites is a top EPA priority. In May 2023, two of the three parcels that make up the Site were sold by Knox County at auction for redevelopment.

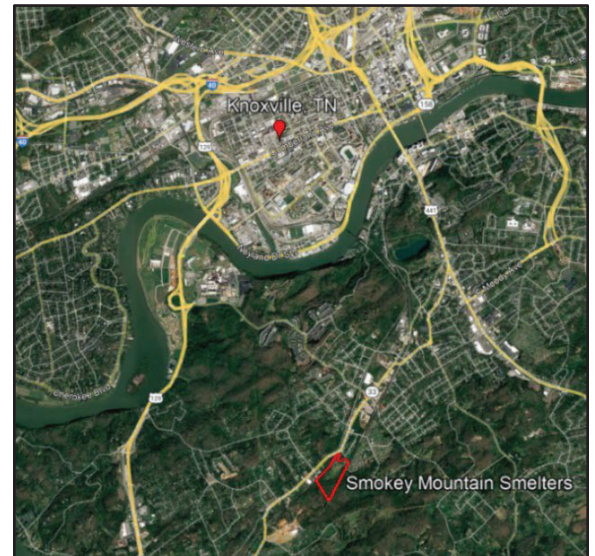


Figure 1: Site Location Map

Cleanup Details

Cleanup work began on February 13, 2023, and finished on September 30, 2023. During the cleanup, approximately 715 cubic yards of contaminated waste was moved and consolidated into one pile that was then graded (Figure 3). This waste pile was then topped with an engineered cap and a cover made of various synthetic layers and 24 inches of soil, and then seeded with grass (Figures 4 and 5). In addition, approximately 11,000 gallons of a treatment solution were injected into shallow groundwater to treat contaminants.



Figure 2: Site Before Cleanup



Figure 3: Grading

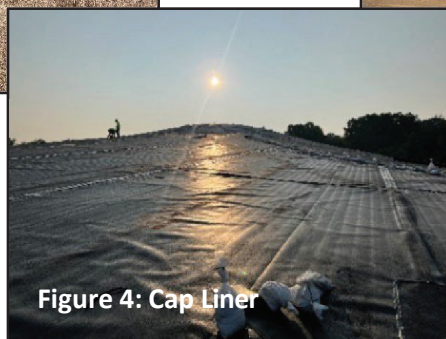


Figure 4: Cap Liner



Figure 5: Seeding Over the Cap (Site After Cleanup)

Next Steps

The Site will be monitored to ensure the cleanup stays protective of human health and the environment. The EPA will evaluate the Site every five years until it is removed from the Superfund National Priorities List. Institutional controls, which are legal and administrative restrictions and conditions placed on a property, will restrict future groundwater use and maintain the integrity of the cap.

Site History

A series of fertilizer and agricultural chemical companies operated at the Site from the 1920s to the 1960s. Later, Smokey Mountain Smelters, Inc., also known as Rotary Furnace, Inc., operated a secondary aluminum smelter at the site from 1979 to 1994. The process involved melting scrap aluminum and aluminum dross (a waste byproduct of the initial smelting process) together, and casting that into aluminum metal bars. Raw materials at the facility primarily consisted of scrap aluminum and aluminum dross. Waste material from the operation was primarily saltcake, a residue with high salt and low metal content, along with baghouse dust and discarded aluminum dross.



Figure 6: Past Operations Aerial Image

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The Smokey Mountain Smelters has a designated EPA website, which houses all Site-related documents and community updates: www.epa.gov/superfund/smokey-mountain-smelters.

For those needing computer access, digital documents can be accessed at the South Knoxville Branch Library (4500 Chapman Hwy, Knoxville, TN) or the Bearden Branch Library (100 Golf Club Road, Knoxville, TN).