



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund Site

Downers Grove, Illinois

June 2023

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5**

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Appendix E - Community Engagement in the Superfund Process: EPA's step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up contaminated sites and opportunities for community involvement.

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INTRODUCTION

Describes the purpose of this CIP, shares EPA’s goal of environmental justice, presents EPA’s community outreach objectives and describes community engagement in Superfund cleanups.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepared this **Community Involvement Plan**, or **CIP** to inform, engage and support the communities near the Ellsworth Industrial Park located in Downers Grove, Illinois. Our **community involvement** effort is committed to promoting effective and meaningful communication between the public and the Agency. EPA wants to ensure that (1) members of the affected communities know and understand when and how they can participate in decision-making during site **cleanup** activities, and (2) the communities’ concerns and information needs are considered and addressed as activities at the site progress.

The CIP is a working document that will evolve as the investigation and cleanup process continues and input is received from the community. It is intended to be flexible and adaptable, used as a guideline for our communication with the community.

This CIP was prepared to support environmental and cleanup activities at and near the Ellsworth Industrial Park site located in Downers Grove, Illinois. We used several information sources to develop this plan, including research, discussions with elected officials, and information gathered at community interviews. EPA scheduled in-person interviews with community members at the Westmont Public Library located at 428 North Cass Avenue in Westmont, a neighboring village of Downers Grove. We conducted interviews with 24 individuals between February 27 and March 2, 2023. Interviewees included residents, officials, and business owners.

*(Words in **bold** are defined in Appendix A.)*

U.S. EPA’s Community Outreach Objectives:

- Assist the public in understanding the decision-making process during the investigation and cleanup and the community’s role in that process.
- Give the public accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- Ensure adequate time and opportunity for the public to give informed and meaningful input.
- Reflect community concerns, questions, and information needs.

This CIP describes EPA’s plan for addressing concerns and keeping residents informed and involved in investigation and cleanup activities at the site. We will use this document as a guide to involve and communicate with residents, businesses, and the local governments including, but not limited to, the Village of Downers Grove. If you are interested in submitting ideas or have questions concerning EPA community engagement, please contact:

Kirstin Safakas
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
312-886-6015
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice Act of 1992 obligates federal agencies to make **environmental justice** part of its overall mission by “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Following this order, the Office of Environmental Equity within EPA became the Office of Environmental Justice. EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice ensures that all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process for a healthy living, learning, and work environment. Ensuring environmental justice means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also ensuring all people are treated fairly and are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

U.S. EPA has the goal of environmental justice for all communities and persons across the nation. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

When making decisions about a cleanup and initiating EPA community involvement, environmental justice issues must be considered. As part of this effort, EPA will continue to collaborate with state agencies, representatives from local government, and concerned residents in addressing environmental challenges in more effective, efficient, and sustainable ways.

For more information on environmental justice, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

Community Engagement in Superfund Cleanups

We have learned that the agency's decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Ongoing input and involvement from the community is essential to our effort to provide effective **community engagement**. Community members should be involved in all phases of the investigation and cleanup so that the **contamination** is addressed in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Residents, business owners and local government officials can provide valuable information about a hazardous site that may help us determine the best way to clean it up. Information can assist the agency in determining the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination, and even sources of the contamination.

Nearby residents educated EPA about their community and told EPA about their concerns, which are explained in the *Community Concerns and Questions* section beginning on the next page.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

Summarizes what community members are concerned about, the questions they asked, and what they told EPA.

What We Heard

This section focuses on the concerns and issues that EPA heard from community members about the site.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **Community Involvement Coordinator**, or **CIC**, Kirstin Safakas and EPA's former¹ **Remedial Project Manager**, or **RPM**, Kevin McCartney spoke with 18 residents, four local elected officials, and two business owners from Downers Grove. All but one interview was conducted in-person.

Note to readers: This section is intended to faithfully record and reflect the issues and concerns expressed to EPA by residents and others interviewed during the community interviews. By necessity, this is a collection and summary of thoughts and observations and, in some cases, opinions. Please be cautioned that the statements contained in this section may or may not be factual and that the opinions and concerns expressed may or may not be valid. Based on the discussions, the same questions were not asked of all interviewees.

To prepare for the interviews, EPA mailed out a fact sheet to community members and businesses from the neighborhoods surrounding the site as well as local, state, and federal officials. During the interviews, community members were asked to recommend other community members whom EPA should interview.

Everyone interviewed was either a resident of Downers Grove or worked in the area. Of the residents interviewed, two moved to the area in the past 1 to 2 years, two lived in the area for 7 to 14 years, and 14 lived in the area for 22 to 66 years. Eight residents stated they lived in an unincorporated area of Downers Grove. Aside from the city officials, two interviewees were active in their neighborhood organizations, and one was involved in an environmental organization.

Many of the residents we spoke with said they were aware of the site before receiving EPA's mailing, though many people assumed the site was correlated with the Lockformer site located in the neighboring town of Lisle. Six residents were unaware of the Ellsworth site before receiving EPA's mailing.

During the interviews, the interviewees educated EPA on their community and told us about their concerns. A summary of what we heard is below.

Community Concerns

Interviewees expressed several concerns about the Ellsworth site. These concerns are presented below:

Health

Several people EPA spoke with specifically expressed concern about the site's potential impact on people's health. One resident said there are four people, including himself, with Parkinson's in his neighborhood. One interviewee inquired if TCE was a carcinogen and stated there were hot spots around Downers Grove for people getting diagnosed with cancer. That resident also said it sounds like most of the steps for public health measures have been taken, and it seems like the Village of Downers Grove had a handle on it before

¹ The Ellsworth Industrial Superfund Site transitioned Remedial Project Managers from Kevin McCartney to Christopher Black.

it posed an increased risk to the public. Another couple of residents stated that a few of their neighbors have cancer who were previously on a private well. One resident stated that the person living in his home before his family moved in died of cancer and he wanted to make sure it was safe. Yet another resident stated he has heard of many people who developed cancer that used to be on private well systems. One resident said she was concerned about anyone with children living near the site. One resident who was still using a **groundwater** well asked how he could get the well tested for PCE and TCE. A resident who has lived in the area since 1981 stated children developed illnesses before the switch to Lake Michigan water, including kidney malfunctions and urinary infections, but believed that was due to the Lockformer site.

One resident expressed concern about the dust/soil that was blown into his yard during construction on the former Magnetrol property within the industrial park – he said his wife is immunocompromised and he worried the soil was potentially contaminated. A resident who recently moved to the area said that because of a kidney transplant, he is mostly concerned about the exposed soil at the site and whether there will be future excavations in the area.

One business owner expressed concern for his employees' health. He said, "I want to be proactive in terms of the health of our employees. We did core testing for our employees, and I want to assure our employees that there is no risk."

Communication

Six residents EPA spoke with were unaware of the site. One resident said, "There was no information about this site for about 20 years – why the lack of communication, or what was the delay?" Several residents were confused between the Ellsworth Industrial Park site and the Lockformer site, and most people were more aware of the Lockformer site than the Ellsworth Superfund site. A resident stated that when he spoke with his neighbors, they cited Lockformer as the cause of contamination, not Ellsworth. One resident said his family has been in the area since the 1920's and remembers the Lockformer site but has never heard about Ellsworth Industrial Park. One resident stated, "We haven't had any contact from any government agency since we had our water changed over." A business owner said he recently found out about the Superfund site when he put the property up for sale. A few residents indicated it was difficult to find certain information on the EPA website. One business owner said he was glad to see the postcard but that it happened by chance – he said more direct communication would be helpful, so he can stay up-to-date on what is happening at the site. He suggested either email or certified mail.

While all local officials interviewed were aware of the site, they said it can be confusing for them and the general public to know the difference between soil, air, or groundwater contamination. They said it would be helpful to have a plain English explanation of what has been cleaned up and what still needs to be cleaned up. Additionally, they said one of the more confusing aspects is why the cleanup is happening in multiple phases and not all at once. Village officials also suggested including a clear explanation of the difference between the Lockformer site and the Ellsworth Industrial Park site because many people think the Ellsworth Industrial Park site is a result of the Lockformer site. The village officials requested more frequent communication with EPA, so they are aware of what is happening at the site.

Groundwater

Eleven interviewees used to use private wells for their water source before it was capped and Downers Grove provided Lake Michigan water; many of the residents indicated this was due to contamination from the Lockformer site. One resident asked if the groundwater was still contaminated. One resident who lives near the former Lockformer property indicated he still uses a groundwater well for drinking water.

Surface water

Three people expressed concern about the potential impact of the contamination on the area's surface water. One resident questioned if monitoring was being done in the nearby St. Joseph's Creek. One resident said that during construction on the former Magnetrol property, dust blew into St. Joseph's Creek. This resident asked, "If the dust got into the stream, how much of the contamination could affect the community downstream?" Two residents said it would be nice if someone could test the surface water near their home as there is standing water whenever it rains, and they live on a property where a well was capped due to contamination.

Vapors

Several residents EPA spoke with expressed concern about **volatile organic compound**, or **VOC**, vapors. Three residents inquired how they might test their homes for VOCs. One person expressed concern regarding potential health impacts of VOC vapors on long-time residents.

Contaminants

A couple of people expressed concern about the **contaminants** being tested. One resident asked if the contaminants of concern included petroleum hydrocarbons. One interviewee asked how EPA delineated the contamination and the site boundary.

Drinking water

A few of the residents EPA spoke with expressed concern about their drinking water. One resident said he was happy to be hooked up to Lake Michigan water because it was the most effective solution. One resident asked how to test his well; this resident lived near the former Lockformer property and is still connected to a groundwater well.

Area construction and flooding

Two people expressed concern about the potential for construction in the area to affect surface water or air contamination. One resident asked if there was any concern toward residents during construction when the ground was being dug up. One person stated the new construction at the site presumably has an environmental impact. One person inquired if there were OSHA standards for workers on the site. Two residents said that during construction of the former Magnetrol property, dust was blowing across the street into residential neighborhoods, and stockpiled soil was blowing into the nearby retention ponds and St. Joseph's Creek. One person also asked if flooding in the area could impact groundwater contamination.

Business values

One business owner said although his property isn't near the properties intended for cleanup, he wanted to know what that meant for his business and better understand what his potential obligations are long-term, since the entire industrial park is included as the Superfund site. He asked, "Even though my business was found to be a non-contributor, is there an element of investment risk to the organization? I want to do my due diligence as a business owner." Another business owner asked what they should do as a responsible business owner. He asked, "Should we conduct indoor air quality testing? Whom do we contact for that?"

Development at the site

Several interviewees commented on the development or development companies at the site. Three residents questioned why a preschool and brewery were allowed to be located on a Superfund site. Five residents expressed concern regarding Bridge Development, LLC, the developer who was working on the former Magnetrol property. Residents said they heard Bridge wasn't cooperating or complying with EPA. One resident said there was insulation blowing around, and the contractor did not contain site materials. This

resident also stated that after the initial demolition crew was gone, everything was better with the demolition and construction at the former Magnetrol property. One resident asked why Bridge opted out of EPA oversight during demolition and redevelopment. One resident brought up the “comfort letter” Bridge requested from EPA and Bridge’s soil management plan. He said the plan was not acceptable and Bridge did not adequately clean the property nor pay attention to the areas of concern. He stated while there may not be any health risks now that the property is developed, he was worried about his family’s health during the redevelopment due to poor management of the site. There was also speculation among a few residents on whether Bridge installed a sub-slab vapor mitigation system.

Village officials said the uncertainty of when the cleanup will be complete works against their community because businesses will not want to invest.

Engaging the Community

Comments people expressed during the community interviews about outreach activities associated with the site include:

Post information online

Community members recommended EPA keep its website up to date and provide information to be posted on Downers Grove Facebook, Nextdoor, and the *Patch*. People also suggested we provide information to the Village of Downers Grove to distribute information.

Village newsletters and communications

Community members suggested EPA provide information to be included in newsletters distributed by the Village of Downers Grove.

Create contact lists

Residents said they use all forms of communication, including social media (Facebook and Nextdoor were the most cited), online news outlets (the *Patch* was most cited), email, and postal mail. All residents interviewed said they received the EPA mailer. A few interviewees provided the EPA with local organizations and active community members to add to the mailing list and email distribution list.

Prepare fact sheets

Community members suggested EPA provide fact sheets to the Village of Downers Grove, neighborhood organizations and residents. People said EPA should continue to mail the fact sheets out to the mailing list because many people still get the information that way. One resident stated that in the future, the agency can send him various materials to post along the hallways of his condominium complex across the street from the site.

Establish information repositories and administrative record

All residents asked indicated online access to information and documents were sufficient.

Distribute news releases

People recommended EPA send its news releases to the *Patch* online newspaper. They also suggested EPA provide this information to the village of Downers Grove for posting on their websites and publishing in community newsletters.

Conduct public meetings

Fourteen interviewees EPA spoke with said they would attend a **public meeting** about the site. Several residents and village officials said EPA should offer a virtual meeting option but would probably attend an in-person meeting. One person suggested using Puffer Elementary School as a meeting location.

Additional outreach suggestions

Interviewees also provided the following additional suggestions for community outreach:

City officials and a few other people said they thought it was important to use as many means as possible to reach people and not to rely on one method.

Many people said EPA should provide updates to both residents and the Village of Downers Grove about the site work and cleanup.

Questions Interviewees Asked U.S. EPA

EPA will continue to respond to resident questions in fact sheets, email updates, or at public meetings.

- How many people have you met with?
- Do contaminants move through the air once they're outdoors?
- What happens if a [potentially] **responsible party**, or **PRP**, goes out of business?
- How many more properties need to be cleaned up?
- Are the buildings that need to be cleaned up vacant?
- Are any residential properties in danger of vapor intrusion?
- Is there any concern for residents during the cleanup of the properties?
- Are there any concerns at the nearby Puffer Elementary School?
- Isn't it still a concern if the buildings release VOCs into the outside air?
- If there is a bit of TCE in the public water, as stated in the Downers Grove Water Quality Report, should we be concerned?
- How far underground is the contamination? Is it below the water table?
- Is vapor intrusion similar to radon?
- Do the contaminants dissipate when they hit the outside air?
- Is TCE a carcinogen?
- Was Magnetrol located where they built a big warehouse?
- Does U.S. EPA or Illinois EPA have oversight and compliance responsibilities at the site?
- Is the Chemring [another property on-site] cleanup ongoing?
- When do you anticipate the full remediation of Ellsworth to be done?
- Has the bulk of the contamination been addressed, according to monitoring?



- Is the entire industrial park one Superfund site?
- Can you explain the phases of cleanup operations?
- Did most of the contamination occur before the 1980's?
- Are the contaminants of concern the same for all properties on-site?
- Is there any difference in urgency between Superfund and Superfund Alternative?
- What are the formal names of PCE and TCE?
- Was the ground cleaned up where the former Magentrol property was? Does someone check that the developer followed through on the cleanup?
- When I walk through the site, I can sometimes smell a sweet chemical smell – is there someone I can call and report that?
- Does Flexco [another property on-site] need to be cleaned up?
- What was the source of the contamination?
- In what direction does groundwater in the area flow?
- How much soil was removed from the former Magnetrol property?
- Are residents safe?
- Can I ask EPA for guidance if I am interested in buying a property in Ellsworth Park?
- Do you have a cost estimate for the cleanup work that needs to be done?
- Who would I contact to ask about the buildings on-site?
- When did residential groundwater testing and well capping occur?
- What should I worry about regarding vapor emissions?
- Would a radon test pick up VOCs?
- Have you tested residential properties for vapor intrusion?
- Aside from the yellow postcard, was this meeting invitation posted anywhere?
- Why is this site considered a Superfund site and the Lockformer site is managed by Illinois EPA?
- What is the progress of the cleanup and litigation at the Rexnord [another property on-site] property?
- What was the scope of testing? Did it [the contamination] stop at groundwater? Were more mediums tested?
- When was the industrial park developed?
- Did the contamination come from the Lockformer site?
- Where did the contaminated soil from the former Magnetrol property go?
- What are five-year reviews? Are there public meetings regarding this?
- If they knew about the contaminated groundwater, why did it take until 2004/2005 to start an investigation?
- What happens when a responsible party leaves?
- What should my takeaway from this meeting be? What should I tell my neighbors?
- Will there be a notice put out if any digging related to cleanup will take place?
- Does EPA monitor the buildings or do the businesses do the monitoring and report it to EPA?
- Was Puffer Elementary School hooked up to a private well?
- Why are facilities like these constructed in residential areas?
- How would you describe the level of interest in the site?
- Moving forward, what is the cleanup deadline?
- What triggered the Chemring cleanup?
- Why is it taking so long to clean up?
- What are the soil remediation goals?
- Is there a screening level for vapor intrusion?
- Why did the cleanup with groundwater move so quickly and the vapor intrusion hasn't been addressed?
- Is there anything I should be doing as a business owner, as a non-responsible party?

What is Special About Your Community?

When asked what was special about their community, people said:

- Cute and quaint
- A lot to explore
- Happy community
- Quiet neighborhood
- Friendly
- Safe neighborhood
- Good quality of life
- Older housing – the neighborhood has largely stayed the same
- Affordable
- Stable
- Well-maintained
- Nice property sizes
- Good neighbors
- Wildlife and a lot of trees
- Good taxes
- Not a lot of turnover
- Great mix of people
- Good schools
- Plenty of shopping and events downtown
- Traffic is not bad
- Neighbors look out for each other



Downtown Downers Grove along Main Street.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Highlights EPA's goals, activities, and timeline to keep community members and local officials informed and involved.

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, we consider several factors, including federal requirements and EPA policy, that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants and known community concerns and requests.

Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members. Superfund community involvement aims to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.

To be effective, our community involvement program is designed to meet the community's need to know, give information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests and its willingness to participate in decision-making processes. We must also share information in a language the public can understand.

To meet the needs of the community and respond to information obtained during discussions and community interviews conducted with residents and other community members, and to meet federal requirements, we have established the following objectives for our community involvement efforts:

- Enlist the support, coordination, and involvement of the Village of Downers Grove officials and other local community leaders.
- Monitor community interest in the site and respond accordingly.
- Keep the community well-informed of ongoing and planned site activities.
- Explain technical site activities and findings in an understandable format.
- Get public input on key decisions.
- Change planned activities, where warranted, based on community input.
- Update EPA's website regularly and provide useful information on it.
- Update the Village of Downers Grove officials on a periodic basis, even if no activities are occurring at the site.
- Hold public meetings, when necessary, within the community to give all residents an opportunity to learn.

EPA has or will put in place the activities described on the following pages to meaningfully and actively engage the community in decisions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the Ellsworth site. The following plan is intended as an opportunity for communication between the community and EPA to occur and address key concerns and questions raised during the discussions and community interviews.

Specific Community Involvement Activities

To meet federal requirements and address community concerns and questions described in the Community Concerns section, EPA has conducted (or will conduct) the activities described below. Through these activities, it is our goal to inform, involve, and engage the community during site cleanup decisions and

efforts. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them.

Maintain Point of Contact

Kirstin Safakas is the primary liaison between EPA and the community. Ms. Safakas serves as the point of contact for community members and fields general questions about the site. For technical site issues, she coordinates with EPA's RPM for the site, Chris Black.

We will include current contact information for the project staff on all written and electronic information and will notify the community of any contact information changes.

EPA has designated the following people as primary site contacts for residents:

Kirstin Safakas

Community Involvement Coordinator

312-886-6015

safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Christopher Black

Remedial Project Manager

312-886-1451

black.christopher@epa.gov

They can also be reached weekdays toll-free at 800-621-8431 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Establish a Toll-free Number for Residents to Ask Questions and Receive Information

Ms. Safakas (ext. 66015) and Mr. Black (ext. 61451) are located in the Chicago office and can be reached using the toll-free number listed in the box above. Ask for them by name or use the telephone extensions listed above. Residents can call these numbers as questions or concerns arise instead of waiting for a public meeting or to receive written information.

Maintain Communication with Local Officials, Agencies and Community Members

We will maintain communication with the local officials throughout the cleanup process. We interviewed residents and business owners and will continue to update them on the progress at the site.

Share Site Information on the Internet

We will provide information on activities and post communications on the following EPA website. The website will be updated as events occur.

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>

Community members interviewed recommended that EPA use local Facebook pages to reach people as well as the village website, the *Patch* online, and email and mail distribution lists.

Update and Maintain a Site Mailing List

We have established a mailing list of local community members, organizations, businesses, and officials for the site. This list will be used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings, and other site-related information. We will update the list regularly to reflect address changes and changes in elected officials, and to add new people interested in site activities.

We use a site mailing list to ensure those that do not have access to the internet or other information sources still have a way to receive information directly about the site and are notified about important meetings. The mailing list is for EPA use only and is not shared with outside entities. If a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing list, they can contact Kirstin Safakas.

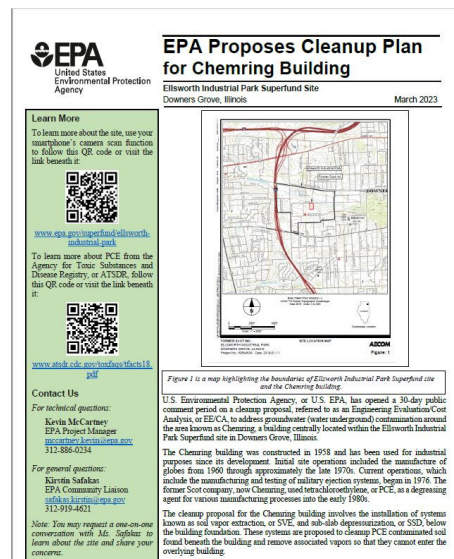
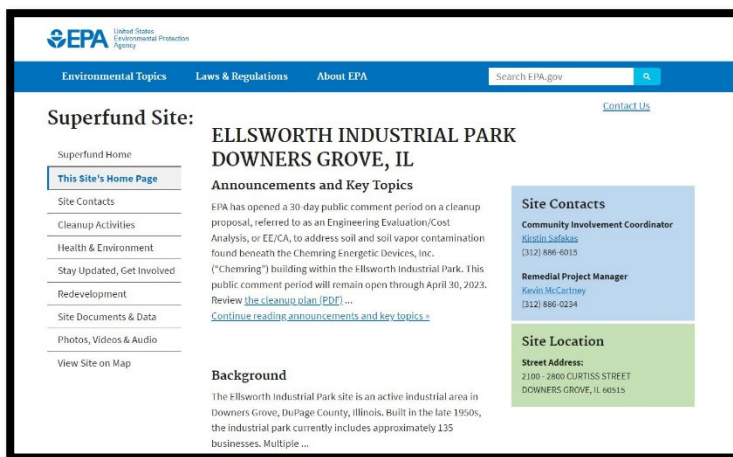
Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets and Site Updates

We will prepare and distribute fact sheets, letters, and site updates to those on the site mailing and email lists summarizing current information about the site and describing upcoming activities. These documents are written in non-technical language and are typically published to coincide with important site activities. These fact sheets will be posted on EPA's website and will be printed and distributed to locations in the community. People interviewed provided EPA with numerous locations throughout the neighborhoods to distribute written materials, including local organizations, community centers, schools, libraries, etc. Those locations are listed under neighborhood organizations in Appendix D.

We use these types of documents to give the community detailed information in a relatively quick, simple, and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to being shared with individuals on the site mailing list, we also place the fact sheets and site updates in the **information repository** on U.S. EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>

Establish and Maintain a Site-specific Information Repository

We have set up an online information repository on the site's web page,



<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>, to access information electronically. The repository is a collection of site information available to the public for reading and printing. Information repositories give residents access to site information in forms that can be easily read and printed for future use. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports, this CIP, general Superfund information and other documents. EPA adds new documents about the site as the documents become available.

Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record

A copy of the **administrative record** for the site can be found at the online repository listed above and at the EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (see Appendix B). We will update the administrative record as necessary. The administrative record gives residents a paper trail of all documents the EPA relied on, or considered, to reach decisions about the site cleanup.

Conduct Public Meetings, Hearings, and Information Sessions

Public meetings are an opportunity for EPA to present specific information and a proposed course of action. Meetings may either be held in-person or virtually where staff is available to share information and answer questions. A public meeting is not a formal public hearing where testimony is received; instead, it might be a meeting to exchange information or comments. We may hold an informal open-house style meeting, referred to as an availability session, where residents can meet EPA experts one-on-one to discuss site activities. Either type of meeting gives community members the opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions of the agency, state or local government officials. Public meetings or availability sessions can be held at various times throughout the investigation and cleanup process. We typically schedule a meeting when there are technical milestones.

A public hearing is a formal meeting where we hear the public's views and concerns about an EPA action or proposal. There are specific regulations about when the agency is required to consider such comments when evaluating its actions. Public hearings are recorded by a professional transcriber and become part of the administrative record. The comments are also posted online.

EPA will consider conducting additional meetings at different times and different locations throughout the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend as needed. Most residents asked said Puffer Elementary School would be the best location to hold a meeting.

Participate in Local Events

On occasion, neighborhood or community groups will request EPA's participation at events, such as farmers markets, to provide site information and respond to resident concerns. EPA considers invitations and offers to speak to community groups based on the event's ability to meaningfully reach members of the public.

Provide Additional Tools for Communities

There are additional programs that can be helpful to the community if there is a need for them. Two of these programs are the **Technical Assistance Services for Communities**, or **TASC**, and the **Technical Assistance Grant**, or **TAG**. The TASC program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations, and policies of environmental issues as well as EPA actions. TAGs provide money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. For more information on these and other programs available, visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-technical-assistance-communities

Write and Distribute News Releases and Public Notices

We will prepare and release announcements to the local newspaper such as the *Daily Herald* and online *Patch* to share information about events such as significant site investigation findings, **public comment periods**, public meetings, and completion of major milestones such as the proposal of a cleanup plan. We will also provide this information to the city officials for posting on the city website as well as publishing in any community newsletters.

News releases allow us to reach large audiences quickly. EPA will issue news releases and public notices as site activities progress. We will put copies of the news releases and public notices in the site information repository and post news releases on the website.

Evaluate Community Involvement and Outreach Efforts and Adjust as Warranted

This CIP was designed to consider site- and community-specific factors as well as to comply with federal requirements. This CIP summarizes community concerns gathered during discussions and interviews with residents and other community members. Based on that information, EPA has developed the objectives of the community involvement program for the site and some specific activities to address these concerns. We recognize that changes in areas, such as community perceptions, information needs, and population demographics, can occur over time and that such changes may necessitate a revised approach to conducting community involvement activities. For this reason, as well as to determine whether the activities in this plan are achieving their intended objectives, we will conduct periodic reviews to determine whether additional activities are warranted or whether changes to the activities outlined in this plan are necessary. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them in a CIP revision.

The following page presents the status of the activities above.

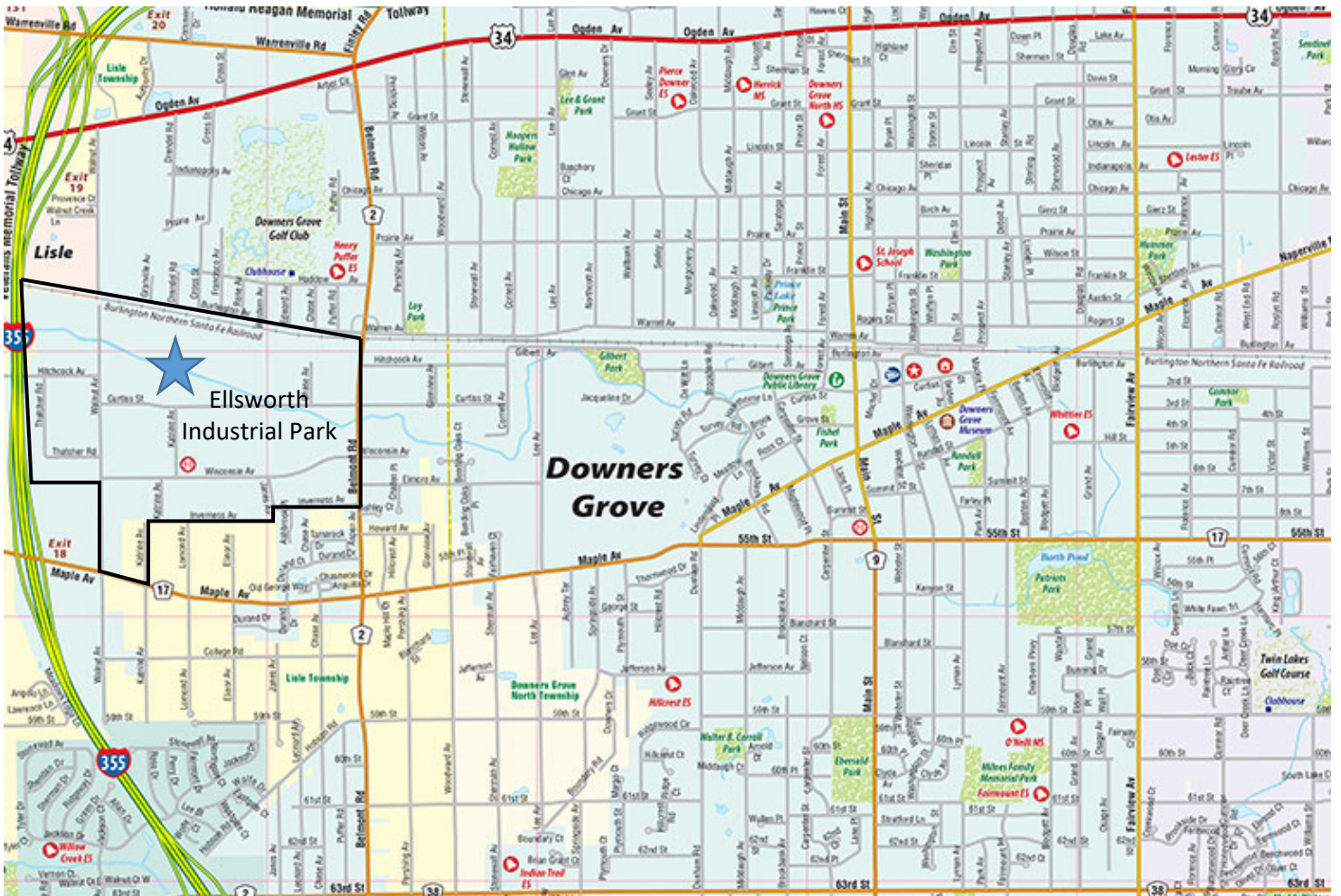
Community Involvement Efforts

The table below shows the types of community involvement activities EPA organizes at a site and how they follow along with the cleanup process of the Ellsworth site.

Activity	Status
Establish and maintain a point of contact: Kirstin Safakas	Completed
Establish a toll-free number for residents to ask questions and receive information: 800-621-8431	Completed
Maintain communication with local officials, agencies, and community residents	Ongoing
Share information online: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park	Ongoing
Create, update, and maintain the site mailing list	Ongoing
Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates	Ongoing
Establish and maintain a site-specific information repository	Completed/Ongoing
Establish and maintain a site-specific administrative record	Completed/Ongoing
Conduct public meetings, hearings, and information sessions	As needed/Ongoing
Participate in local events	As appropriate
Prepare site videos	As appropriate
Provide additional tools for communities	As needed/Ongoing
Write and distribute news releases and public notices	Ongoing
Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts, adjusting as warranted	As needed

THE COMMUNITY

Provides a summary of the composition and history of the Village of Downers Grove.



Community Profile

The Ellsworth site is located in the Village of Downers Grove. The following provides information about the community, including its history, government, and demographics.

History

The Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, is approximately 25 miles southwest of Chicago. Downers Grove was founded in 1832 by Pierce Downer, who settled in the present-day northwest corner of Downers Grove near Ogden Avenue (then an Indian trail). The Downers were followed by other settlers, including Walter Blanchard, Israel Blodgett, and Henry Puffer, who created a community around a grove surrounded by prairie. In 1839, DuPage County was organized, with the county seat in Naperville (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

By 1850, Europeans from England, Ireland, Germany, and Alsace-Lorraine arrived in the area. Settlement of the Downers Grove area was facilitated by planking the old Indian trail; the Southwestern Plank Road is now known as Ogden Avenue. In 1851, a stagecoach route from Chicago to Downers Grove was established. In 1863, Samuel Curtiss established the first subdivision in what would become the southeastern side of the central business district, and in 1864, the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad came through town. The arrival of the railroad stimulated the creation of Main Street from Maple Avenue to the train tracks in 1865. The railroad did not immediately impact residential growth; only one train a day traveled in each direction, and passengers typically had to ride in freight cars. The first commuter trains began operating in 1869 (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

In 1873, Downers Grove was incorporated as a village with around 350 residents. The first Village Hall was built in 1877. By 1885, the population had grown to 500, and more homes were constructed between the tracks, Maple Avenue, and Washington and Carpenter Streets. In the 1890s, Downers Grove saw increased subdivision activity and residential growth; the population grew to 2,102. Eastern European immigrants settled in the area in the 1890s. By 1895, 25 trains ran daily between Chicago and Downers Grove, and additional stations were built at Belmont and East Grove (later Fairview). The settled areas expanded north and south of the tracks.

Residential growth was accompanied by new municipal services and utility improvements during the 1890s, including a water works and electric plant, a volunteer fire department, and the introduction of telephones. In 1892, Chicago businessmen, including Marshall Field, founded the first nine-hole golf course west of

Underground Railroad

Downers Grove played a vital role in the Underground Railroad, serving as the last stop for Chicago where fugitives could board ships to Canada. More than 40,000 slaves passed through DuPage County. Underground railroad stations were located at the homes of Pierce Downer and Israel and Avis Blodgett. The Blodgetts were active abolitionists and hid slaves in either their home or Israel's blacksmith shop on their journey to Chicago and then onto a steamer to Canada. Other Downers Grove abolitionists included Samuel Curtiss and Henry Carpenter ([Source](#)).

In 2008, the Blodgett house was moved to its original Maple Avenue location after being moved to Randall Street at the turn of the 20th century. The Blodgett house is located on the Downers Grove Museum Campus, and the exterior has been restored to its 19th-century appearance. Over the course of 12 years, Downers Grove worked to restore the house to create a cultural center focusing on the Blodgett family and their involvement in the Underground Railroad. In 2019, the restored house opened to the public ([Source](#)).



Downers Grove Main Street train station.

the Appalachian Mountains. The golf course was located just north of Belmont Station (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

Between 1900 and 1920, the population grew to 3,543. Several new commercial buildings were constructed along Main Street. The buildings housed a variety of businesses, including general stores, laundries, hardware stores, offices, and a meat market. In 1915, the library was built on the corner of Curtiss Street and Forest Avenue. In 1915, residents voted to change the form of government from a mayor and board of commissioners to a

commission, which went into effect in 1917. In 1920, the DuPage County Forest Preserve District purchased 80 acres of land in Downers Grove to preserve a large remaining parcel of the original grove, and in 1923, an additional three acres were added to create the Maple Grove Forest Preserve (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

The population of Downers Grove more than doubled in the 1920s, as the population increased to almost 9,000 by the end of the decade. In the 1920s and 1930s, the growing population of Downers Grove necessitated the need for schools and additions to existing ones. During this time, the downtown business district also expanded, with new shops, a new post office, and the new Tivoli Theatre and Hotel Building, which opened in 1928. The 1920s construction boom led the Downers Grove Village Council to create its first zoning ordinance to guide future growth (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

From the 1930s to 1940s, the population of Downers Grove grew to only about 9,500. Annexation of unincorporated areas for the creation of subdivisions absorbed remaining farms and involved the installation of streets, water mains, and sewers. In the process, the village boundaries were expanded. By the 1950s, the population reached 12,000. In 1962, Downers Grove changed to the village manager form of government, and in 1969, the village moved its Village Hall to Burlington Avenue (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).



The Tivoli Theatre in downtown Downers Grove, originally built in 1928.

Beginning in the 1950s, Downers Grove experienced growth of business and light industrial parks. Pepperidge Farm bakeries moved to the eastern edge of Downers Grove in the late 1950s. In the mid-1960s, Ellsworth Industrial Park was fully developed near the Belmont train station. Today, Ellsworth is home to more than 135 businesses (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

After World War II, Downers Grove experienced its greatest period of growth due to its location near the intersection of Interstate 88 and Interstate 355 tollways and its nearness to Interstates 55 and 294. The expressways provided easy access to airports and downtown Chicago. The population rose to 21,154 by 1960 and rose again to 42,560 by 1980. Growth was accompanied by the expansion of the park system, which currently consists of 45 park sites. In the 1970s, The Nature Conservancy and the Belmont Prairie Preservation Association worked to protect the 10-acre Belmont Prairie, one of the last original prairies in Illinois. In 1979, Downers Grove Park District purchased the prairie, and in 1980, the prairie was designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve by the state (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).



Belmont Prairie path in March of 2023.

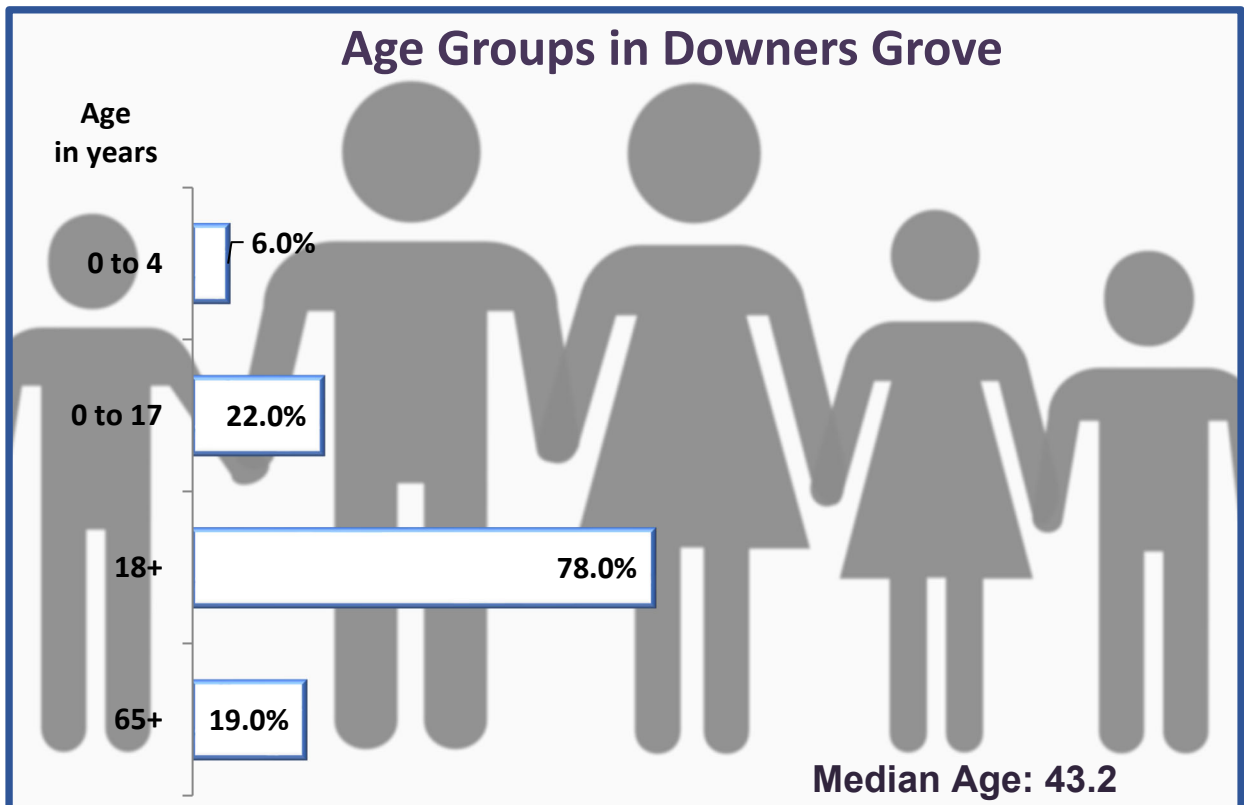
In 1997, the village launched a downtown redevelopment project to spur investment. Beginning in the late 1990s, increasing property values prompted teardowns of more modest homes to build larger residences. By 2000, the population increased to 48,724 residents, and in recent years, diversity has increased with an influx of residents of African American, East Indian, Southeast Asian, and Philippine descent (Downers Grove Architectural and Historical Survey – Historic Context 2013).

Governmental structure

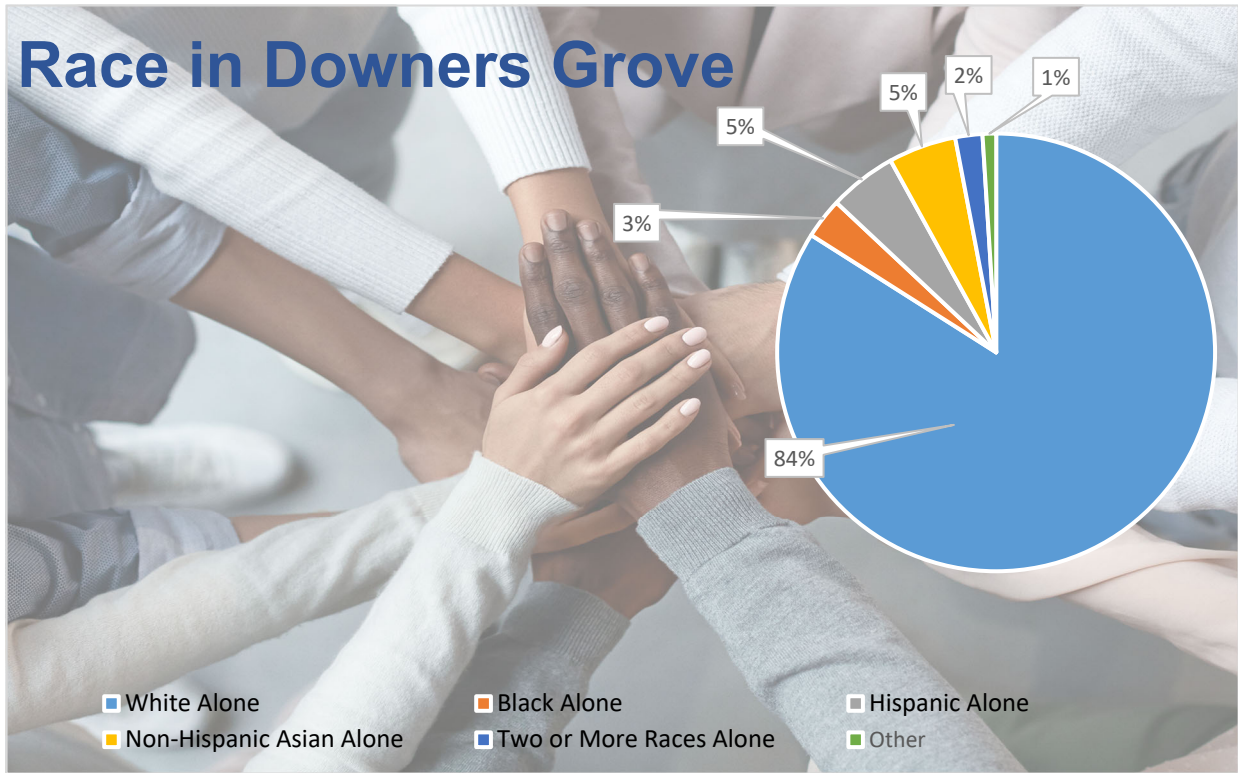
The Village of Downers Grove is organized under a council-manager government. The mayor, village council and village manager constitute a policy-development and management team, with the mayor and council acting as the policymakers, and the manager executing those policies. The council includes six commissioners. A contact list, including the current mayor, village manager and Downers Grove village council, is included in Appendix D.

Demographics

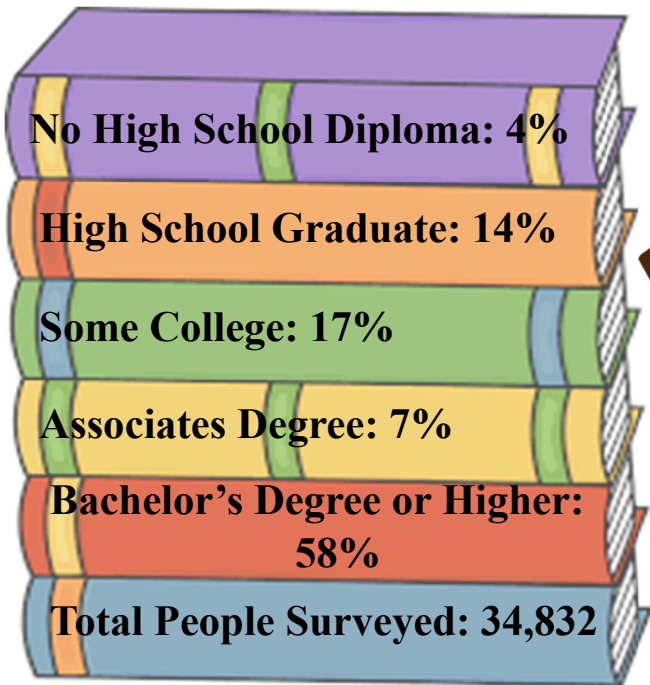
The following demographic information was obtained from the City Data website and using an EPA selection tool called the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, or EJScreen. This tool provides users with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. Information in the tool came from the 2016-2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year estimates for the Village of Downers Grove. According to City Data, the estimated current population of Cedarburg is 49,057. According to EJScreen, of the residents of the Village of Downers Grove aged five and older from 2016 to 2020, 87 percent said they speak only English. Approximately 13 percent said they speak a language other than English at home, with about 4 percent of those saying they speak English “less than very well.” The following graphics provide information about the community affected by the Ellsworth site.



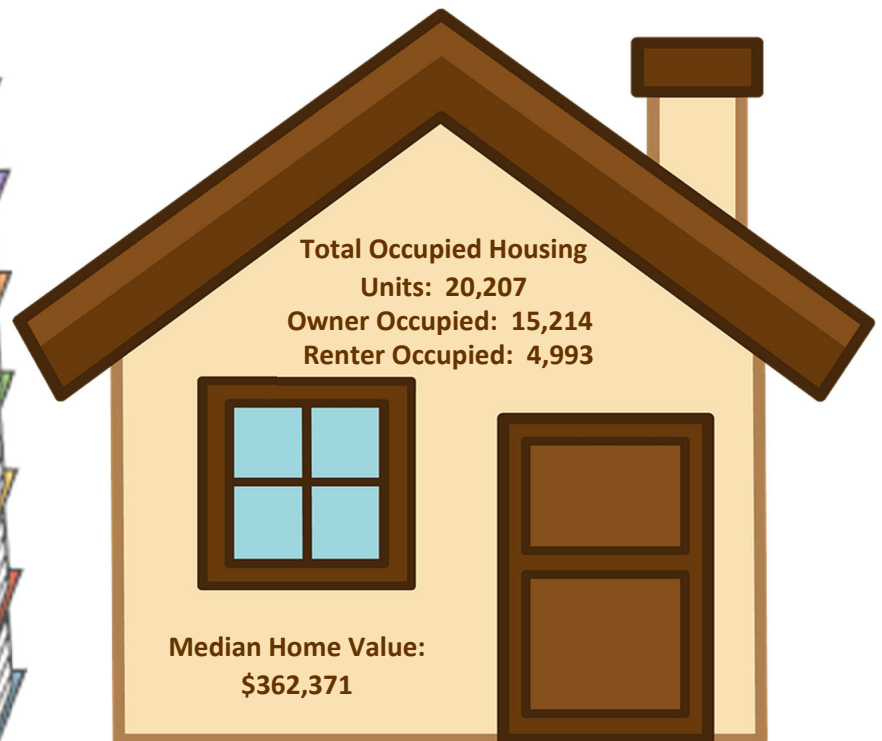
Race in Downers Grove



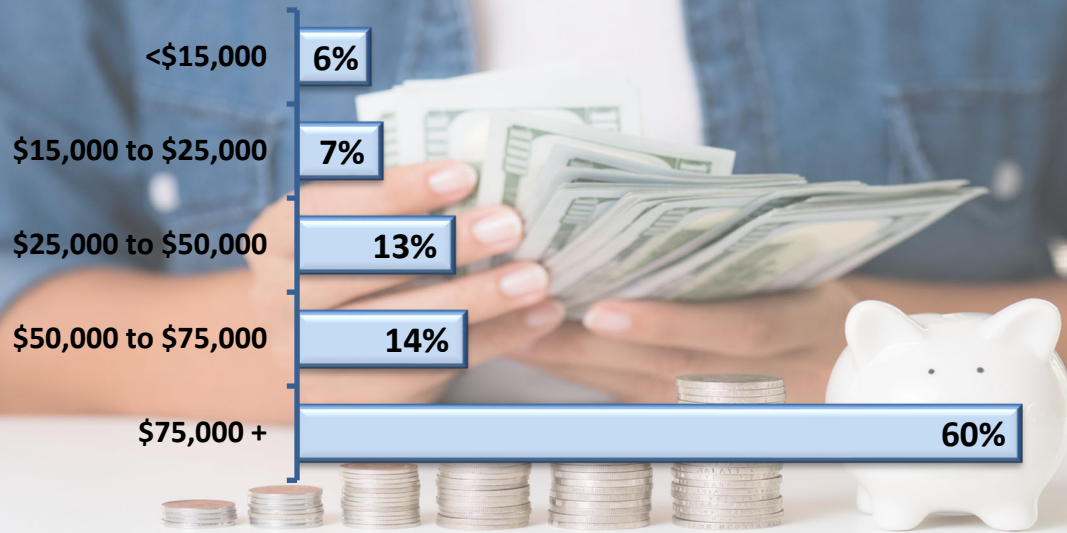
Education Levels for People Aged 25+



Housing in Downers Grove



Household Income in Downers Grove



THE SITE

Provides a summary of the Ellsworth site.

EPA is overseeing cleanup activities at the Ellsworth site, located at 2100 – 2800 Curtiss Street in Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois. Ellsworth Industrial Park is an active industrial area originally built in the late 1950s. The industrial park currently includes approximately 135 businesses and is bordered to the north by Burlington Avenue, to the east by Belmont Road, to the south by Maple Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, and to the west by Interstate 355. Multiple business in the park used solvents containing VOCs. The site encompasses the contamination source areas and the area in which chlorinated-solvent groundwater contamination has been detected ([Source](#)).

The overall site has been further subdivided by EPA into **Operable Unit**, or **OU**, 1 and Operable Unit 2, or OU2. OU1 consists of the industrial park proper, and OU2 consists of the groundwater contamination areas detected in the residential areas outside (south and west) of Ellsworth Industrial Park ([Source](#)).

There have been various lists of PRPs in the past 20 years due to different settlement agreements, new information, transfer of ownership, etc. The PRPs consist of facilities that had released VOCs at their individual properties within the industrial park, and those releases contributed to the contamination.

History

In 2001, Illinois EPA conducted residential well sampling east of Interstate 355 in response to citizen concerns related to private-well sampling in the neighboring village of Lisle. Additional sampling was conducted in 2002 in response to the 2001 sampling. Illinois EPA sampled 525 residential wells; about 200 wells contained VOCs, including **trichloroethylene**, or **TCE**, and **tetrachloroethylene**, or **PCE**, above the U.S. EPA drinking water standards (Public Health Assessment – Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation 2003). These efforts identified groundwater contamination in private drinking water wells in unincorporated areas of Downers Grove. In 2002, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, or ESA, within and outside Ellsworth Industrial Park to evaluate the presence and extent of chlorinated solvent groundwater contamination and to find a potential source. Sampling data showed that VOC contamination consists mainly of TCE and PCE that migrated from the source areas at several businesses in the industrial park to residential drinking water wells south and east of the industrial park ([Source](#)).

In 2002, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA sent letters to 19 businesses within the site requesting they enter negotiations to investigate and deal with the industrial park's soil and area groundwater contamination. A 2003 legal agreement with U.S. EPA known as an **Administrative Order on Consent**, or **AOC**, resulted in a group of PRPs (including many of the parties in the 2002 Settlement Agreement), in which they agreed to fund hookups to a public drinking water supply for approximately 800 residences in unincorporated Downers Grove. Water connections began in 2003 and were completed in 2004 ([Source](#)).

In 2005, the same group of PRPs entered into a second settlement for OU1. They agreed to help U.S. EPA pay for a **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study**, or **RI/FS**, to identify and control source areas within the industrial park where both releases and potential releases of VOCs presented an unacceptable threat to groundwater. The RI/FS consisted of building inspections, sub-slab passive gas sampling, utility corridor sampling, geological and soil investigation, grab groundwater sampling, monitoring well sampling, hydraulic conductivity testing, and groundwater elevation measurements. In 2014, U.S. EPA

completed the OU1 source control investigation but decided to defer the selection of a final remedy for OU1 until after the completion of the OU2 RI/FS (EPA Fact Sheet 2023).

In 2017, U.S. EPA and a group of 13 PRPs reached a third Settlement Agreement, in which the PRPs would perform an RI/FS for the groundwater within OU2. This work is ongoing and has shown that the previously contaminated aquifer downgradient and south of the site is no longer contaminated with chlorinated solvents above federal drinking water standards, also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs (EPA Fact Sheet 2023).

Lockformer: How Does it Differ from Ellsworth?

The source of contamination discovered in the private drinking water wells at residences south and east of the industrial park differed from the source of contamination found in private drinking water wells at residences just south of the former Lockformer plant in Lisle. Lockformer first informed local officials of its on-site TCE concern in 1999, when they asked the village of Lisle to pass an ordinance banning private wells near the plant. In 2000, a resident south of the plant had his well sampled and found low levels of TCE; Lockformer paid to hook this home up to public water. Numerous other nearby residents hired an attorney, who had an environmental consultant sample 30-plus wells south of the plant in 2000. Six of these wells had TCE exceeding U.S. EPA drinking water standards (5 parts per billion, or ppb, for TCE), and many others had detectable TCE. The law firm filed a federal suit, which was certified for class-action status for the residents in homes just south of the plant. In December 2000, Illinois EPA sampled 48 additional wells and found TCE exceeding federal drinking water standards in nine additional wells and at lower levels in at least 25 others. The general extent of the contamination from the Lockformer plant was in the neighborhood immediately south of the plant ([Source](#)).

Magnetrol Cleanup

In 2018, Magnetrol excavated and removed TCE-contaminated soil, as required by the **Administrative Order on Consent, or AOC**, to achieve the preliminary cleanup level of 1.2 milligrams per kilogram. A total of 3,200 tons of VOC-contaminated soil was removed from two areas of concern: near a solvent degreaser in the building and near a paint booth. A **sub-slab depressurization, or SSD**, system was



The former Magnetrol property along Belmont Avenue. The new developer constructed a warehouse on the site.

installed in the two excavated areas to address potential vapor intrusion concerns. The excavations were then backfilled. The sub-slab depressurization system operates continuously under an EPA-approved maintenance and monitoring plan. EPA and Magnetrol entered into an **Environmental Covenant** in March 2020. The Covenant imposes the following activity and land use limitations on the property: (1) for commercial/industrial use; (2) restricted occupancy (no overnight stays); (3) restricted groundwater use; (4) no public access or use; and (5) continuous

operation of a sub-slab depressurization system (Tetra Tech, Inc. 2021).

In November 2020, EPA was notified of Magnetrol’s property developer by the now-current owner of its real estate agreement with Magnetrol and was provided with a preliminary redevelopment plan as part of a “comfort letter” request. In a December 2020 response, EPA explained that it is the property owner's responsibility to make sure it takes all reasonable steps necessary with respect to any contamination that may remain on the property and that may be encountered during redevelopment work, as the developer bears responsibility for ensuring that its activities do not trigger environmental liability under the law called the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act** of 1980, or **CERCLA**, or informally known as “Superfund”. This includes ensuring any additional areas found to be contaminated are appropriately addressed, i.e., contaminated soils are appropriately characterized for proper disposal. EPA recommended in its December 2020 letter that the developer consider entering into an agreement with the EPA to ensure the developer’s actions didn’t trigger potential environmental liability, but in subsequent discussions, the owner declined to pursue an agreement with EPA. The owner has the right to take this approach, relying on the expertise of its consultants and legal counsel to help assure its activities are properly managed and implemented so they do not trigger liability concerns ([Source](#)).

Rexnord Cleanup

In March 2020, EPA finalized a cleanup plan for the Rexnord property to address PCE concentrations in soil and groundwater that exceeded cleanup levels. The initial soil excavation work was completed in October 2020. The soil excavation removal action addressed the impacted soils in the upper clay unit to a maximum depth of 20 feet below grade; these soils were transported and disposed of off-site at an approved disposal facility. The VOC impacts to the deep soil and shallow groundwater was addressed by an **air sparge/soil vapor extraction**, or **AS/SVE** system. AS/SVE systems are very common as they are proven technologies for treating VOCs in soil and groundwater. The AS/SVE is expected to run for three years ([Source](#)).



The Rexnord property along Curtiss Street. An AS/SVE system was installed to address the vapor intrusion concerns at the property.

Chemring Cleanup

On January 26, 2022, EPA entered into an AOC with Chemring to complete an **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis**, or **EE/CA**, for its property. This AOC requires that Chemring design and implement a remedy elected by the EPA based on the EE/CA. The EE/CA was submitted to EPA in February 2023 (EPA Fact Sheet 2023).

The cleanup proposal for the Chemring building involves the installation of a **soil vapor extraction**, or **SVE** system and sub-slab depressurization system, or SSD, below the building foundation. These systems are proposed to cleanup PCE-contaminated soil beneath the building and remove associated vapors so they cannot enter the overlying building (EPA fact sheet 2023).



The Chemring property in Ellsworth Industrial Park. EPA proposed a cleanup plan to the public for Chemring in April 2023.

Current Site Status

OU1's investigation is ongoing to determine the nature and extent of the contamination source areas, while evaluating possible impacts to human health and the environment. Sampling and soil cleanup has been completed, and U.S. EPA is in consultation with Illinois EPA to select a proposed final cleanup approach for the source areas to prevent further groundwater contamination. The installation of AS/SVE systems or SSD systems is ongoing to address vapor intrusion concerns inside buildings at Ellsworth Industrial Park ([Source](#)).

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA are also supervising investigations for OU2 concerning potentially contaminated groundwater at and surrounding the Ellsworth Industrial Park site. As part of OU2's investigation, the PRPs have been sampling **monitoring wells** in an area southeast of the industrial park, as well as nearby homes, which are located two miles or more from the industrial park. So far, sampling results from those homes and from the monitoring wells closer to the industrial park indicate these residential wells are not likely impacted by site-related contaminants ([Source](#)). This work has also shown that the previously contaminated aquifer downgradient and south of the site is no longer contaminated with chlorinated solvents above MCLs.

EPA has been pursuing private Settlement Agreements with individual PRPs to expedite cleanup of the individual source areas identified in the OU1 RI that may present unacceptable risks to human health. These risks are based on a direct contact threat, VOC migration into groundwater, and/or vapor intrusion concerns ([Source](#)).

Appendix A

Glossary – Initials – Acronyms

Administrative Order on Consent. A legal document that formalizes an agreement reached between U.S. EPA and parties considered potentially responsible for contamination, known as PRPs, where PRPs will perform all or part of a Superfund site cleanup. The Administrative Order on Consent describes actions that PRPs are required to perform, the costs incurred by the government that the PRPs will reimburse, as well as the roles, responsibilities, and enforcement options that the government may exercise in the event of noncompliance by the PRPs.

AOC. See Administrative Order on Consent.

Administrative Record. The body of documents that forms the basis for the selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were considered or relied upon to select the remedy through the **Record of Decision**.

Air Sparge/Soil Vapor Extraction System. Air sparging involves injection of air into contaminated groundwater to drive volatile and semi-volatile contaminants into the overlying vadose zone through volatilization. Soil vapor extraction is commonly implemented in conjunction with air sparging to remove generated vapor-phase contamination.

AS/SVE. See air sparge/soil vapor extraction system.

CERCLA. See Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

CIC. See Community Involvement Coordinator.

CIP. See Community Involvement Plan.

Cleanup. Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a **hazardous substance** that could affect human health and/or the environment. The term “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms “remedial action,” “remedy,” “remediation,” “removal action,” “response action,” or “corrective action.”

Community Engagement. The process of involving communities in all phases of the cleanup process. Communities are asked to provide input on how the cleanup will be conducted and how it may affect community plans and goals. See also Community Involvement.

Community Involvement. The term used by EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund site. EPA’s community involvement approach is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in agency activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Coordinator. The EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth by the agency.

Community Involvement Plan. A plan that outlines specific community involvement activities that occur during the investigation and cleanup at the site. The CIP outlines how EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and the ways in which residents can review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site. The document is available in the site's information repository maintained by EPA. The CIP may be modified as necessary to respond to changes in community concerns, information needs and activities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**. Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect people's health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled **hazardous waste** site. Under the program, EPA can either:

- Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to do the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

Contaminant(s). Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water, or soil.

Contamination. Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings, and various household use products.

EE/CA. See Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis.

EJ. See Environmental Justice.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis. A comparative analysis of removal action options and costs for a Superfund hazardous waste site.

Environmental Covenant. An agreement to restrict certain activities and uses of the Property to protect human health and the environment.

Environmental Justice. The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Feasibility Study. The feasibility study is an analysis of the practicality of a proposal and evaluates alternatives and costs for their effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment.

FS. See Feasibility Study.

Groundwater. Underground supplies of water.

Hazardous Substance(s). Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive. Any substance designated by U.S. EPA is to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste. Byproducts that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes usually possess at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity) or appear on special U.S. EPA lists.

Information Repository. A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a site.

Monitoring Well. Groundwater monitoring wells are principally used for observing groundwater levels and flow conditions, obtaining samples for determining groundwater quality, and for evaluating hydraulic properties of water.

National Priorities List. U.S. EPA's list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste site identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. U.S. EPA is required to update the National Priorities List at least once a year.

Operable Unit. During cleanup, a site can be divided into several distinct areas depending on the complexity of the problems associated with the site. These areas, known as operable units, may address geographic areas of a site, specific site problems, or areas where a specific action is required.

OU. See Operable Unit.

PCE. See Tetrachloroethene.

Potentially Responsible Parties. Any individual or company (including owners, operators, transporters, or generators) that has been identified as being potentially responsible for, or contributing to, a spill or other potential contamination at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, through administrative and legal action, EPA requires PRPs to clean up sites that have been contaminated.

Proposed Plan. A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

Public Comment Period(s). A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various EPA documents or actions.

Public Meeting(s). Meetings that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings known as hearings, may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. Formal public meetings are required only for the **Proposed Plan** and **Record of Decision** amendments.

PRP: See Potentially Responsible Parties.

Record of Decision. A ROD is a legal, technical, and public document that explains which cleanup alternative will be used at a Superfund site. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation and feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Investigation. The remedial investigation is a study designed to collect the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

Remedial Project Manager. The EPA or state official responsible for overseeing on-site remedial action.

RI. See Remedial Investigation.

ROD. See Record of Decision.

RPM. See Remedial Project Manager.

SARA. See Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

Soil Vapor Extraction System. An in-situ soil remediation technology where a vacuum is applied to the soil to induce the controlled flow of air and remove volatile and some semi-volatile contaminants from the soil.

Sub-slab Depressurization System. A sub-slab depressurization system consists of a fan or blower that draws air from the soil beneath a building and discharges it into the atmosphere through a series of collection and discharge pipes.

SSD. See Sub-Slab Depressurization System.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Modifications to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, enacted on October 17, 1986.

Superfund. The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out U.S. EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the **National Priorities List**, investigating site for inclusion on the list, determining their priority and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

SVE. See Soil Vapor Extraction System.

TAG. See Technical Assistance Grant.

TASC. See Technical Assistance Services for Communities.

TCE. See Trichloroethene.

Technical Assistance Grant. This grant provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities. This program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations, and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions.

Tetrachloroethylene. A **volatile organic compound** used primarily in industrial settings to produce fluorinated compounds. This chemical is also used for dry cleaning, as a solvent for cleaning and degreasing, and in lubricants, adhesives, and sealants.

Trichloroethylene. A **volatile organic compound** used mostly in industrial and commercial processes, similar to Tetrachloroethylene.

Volatile Organic Compounds. Volatile organic compounds are compounds that have high vapor pressure and low water solubility. Many VOCs are human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of paints, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants. VOCs typically are industrial solvents, such as trichloroethylene; fuel oxygenates, such as methyl tert-butyl ether

(MTBE); or by-products produced by chlorination in water treatment, such as chloroform. VOCs are often components of petroleum fuels, hydraulic fluids, paint thinners, and dry-cleaning agents. VOCs are common groundwater contaminants.

VOCs. See Volatile Organic Compounds.

Appendix B

Information Repository, Administrative Record, Websites and Meeting Locations

Official Information Repository

U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center

Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Room 711, 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

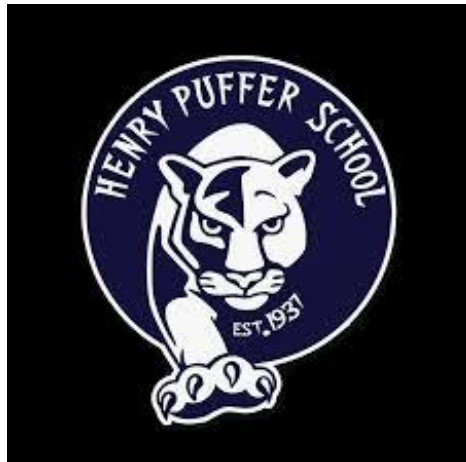
U.S. EPA Site Webpage

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>

Possible Future Meeting Location(s)

Henry Puffer Elementary School

2220 Haddow Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-968-0294



Appendix C

Community Interview Questions

BASICS

1. Are you a resident in the area? If yes, how long have you lived in the area?
2. Do you own or rent?
3. How do you identify yourself demographically in terms of race, ethnicity, and language preference?
4. Do you hold any position – elected, appointed, hired – with any municipal, state, or federal agency? If so, which, and what is the position?

COMMUNICATION

5. Do you have access to the internet?
6. How do you want to be informed about site activities?
 - i. Mail (do you want to be on EPA's mail list?)
 - ii. Email (do you want to be on EPA's email list?)
- b. Newspaper (what newspaper(s)?)
- c. TV (what stations?)
- d. Radio (what stations?)
- e. Social Media (what form?)
- f. Websites/online sources
- g. Other (such as word of mouth, city/state officials, etc.)
7. Are you aware of EPA's website?
 - i. If yes, have you been on it?
 - ii. Is it easy to navigate?
 - iii. Other comments?
8. Have you attended any meetings about the site? If so, when/where?
9. Would you attend a virtual or in-person public meeting about the site? Preference?
10. What days, times, and locations would be best for public meetings/virtual meetings/conference calls?
 - i. Suggestions for future meeting locations?
11. Are there any people or community groups we should talk to about the Ellsworth site? If so, do you have the contact information for those groups?
12. Have you received any information about the Ellsworth site? If so, what did you receive and when?
13. Do you feel you have been adequately informed about the site?
 - i. If no, what other kinds of information would you like?

CONCERNS

14. How long have you been aware of environmental concerns at the site?
15. What do you know about the Ellsworth site?
16. What concerns do you have about the site?
17. Have you been in contact with local Downers Grove, state, or federal agencies about the site?
18. What is special/important to you about your community?
19. Is there anything else you would like to share about either the site or EPA's involvement with the local community?
20. Do you have any questions?

Appendix D

List of contacts

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Officials

Christopher Black
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division
77 W Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-1451 or 800-621-8431 x
61451
black.christopher@epa.gov

Kirstin Safakas
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of the Regional Administrator
77 W Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6015 or 800-621-8431 x
66015
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Illinois EPA Agency Officials

Greggory S. Miller
Bureau of Land, Federal Site Remediation
Program
217-782-9869
Greggory.miller@illinois.gov

Federal Elected Officials

Tammy Duckworth

Senator
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2854
<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-3506

Richard Durbin

Senator
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2152
<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604
312-353-4952

Sean Casten

U.S. Representative
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4561
<https://casten.house.gov/>

Glen Ellyn Office

800 Roosevelt Rd. Building C Suite 204
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-520-9450

State Elected Officials

J.B. Pritzker

Governor
555 W. Monroe St., Floor 16
Chicago, IL 60661
312-814-2121
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Pages/default.aspx>

John Curran (41st District)

State Senator
1011 State St., Suite 205
Lemont, IL 60439
630-914-5733
<https://senatorcurran.com/>

Anne Stava-Murray (60th District)

State Representative
633 Rogers St., Suite 110
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-605-0595
<https://www.repstavamurray.com/>

Downers Grove Officials

Bob Barnett

Mayor
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8807
rbarnett@downers.us

Rosa Berardi

Village Clerk
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-5534
rberardi@downers.us

Greg Hose

Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8811
ghose@downers.us

Nicole Walus

Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8808
nwalus@downers.us

Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt

Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8802
lsfugitt@downers.us

Rich Kulovany

Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8801
rkulovany@downers.us

Chris Gilmartin
Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8803
cgilmartin@downers.us

Danny Glover
Village Commissioner
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-8812
dglover@downers.us

David Fieldman
Village Manager
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-5526
dfieldman@downers.us

Downers Grove Police
Police Chief
Michael DeVries
825 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-5604
mdevries@downers.us

Downers Grove Fire Department
Fire Chief
Scott Spinazola
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-

Community Development
Director
Stan Popovich
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-6893
spopovich@downers.us

Jennifer Rizzo
Emergency Management Coordinator
801 Burlington Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-434-5700
jrizzo@downers.us

Health Agencies/ Organizations

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry Region 5**
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Room 433, M/S 4J

Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-0840
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r5.html

DuPage County Health Dept.
111 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-682-7400
<https://www.dupagehealth.org/>

**DuPage County Health Dept.
Environmental Water Lab**
111 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-221-7593
<https://www.dupagehealth.org/258/Environmental-Water-Lab>

Neighborhood Organizations

Downers Grove Township
4340 Prince St.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-719-6600
<https://www.dgtownship.com/>

Lisle Township
4711 Indiana Ave.
Lisle, IL 60532
630-968-2087
<https://www.lisletownship.com/>

Cameo West 5300 Association
5300 Walnut Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-737-0262

Newspapers

Chicago Daily Herald
P.O. Box 280
Arlington Heights, IL 60006
847-427-4300
<https://www.dailyherald.com/>

Patch
<https://patch.com/illinois/downersgrove>

Radio

WBBM – 780 AM
180 N. Stetson, Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-297-7800
<https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780>

WGN – 720 AM
303 E. Wacker Dr., Fl 18
Chicago, IL 60601
312-981-7200
<https://www.iheart.com/live/wgn-radio-am-720-5305/>

WBBM – 105.9 FM
180 N. Stetson, Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-297-7800
<https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780>

Television

WBBM-TV CBS 2
22 W. Washington St.
Chicago, IL 60602
<https://www.cbs58.com/>

WLS-TV ABC 7
190 N. State St.

Chicago, IL 60601
312-750-7777
<https://abc7chicago.com/>

WMAQ-TV NBC 5
424 N. Columbus Dr.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-836-5555
<https://www.nbcchicago.com/>

WTTW-TV PBS 11
5400 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
773-509-5555
<https://www.wttw.com/>

WFLD-TV Fox 32
205 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-565-5532
<https://www.fox32chicago.com/>

Appendix E

Community Engagement and the Superfund Process

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, also known as “Superfund”. In 1986, another law, the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**, or **SARA**, reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. The CERCLA law gives U.S. EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for creating **hazardous waste** sites to clean up those sites or to reimburse the government if EPA cleans up the sites. U.S. EPA compels responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, consent decrees and other legal settlements. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund laws within tribal reservations, in all 50 states, and in U.S. territories. Superfund site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection, or waste management agencies.



There are several steps involved in cleaning up a contaminated site. Once U.S. EPA has been made aware of a contaminated site from individual citizens, local, tribal, or state agencies or others, the agency follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up the site, protecting human health and the environment.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, U.S. EPA can intervene with an **emergency response action**. The goal of U.S. EPA’s Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of **hazardous substances**. The following pages present diagrams showing community involvement in the Removal and Remedial processes.

The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all of the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing cleanup actions. U.S. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process. At each step in the process, there are opportunities for various levels of community involvement (see the following page for more details).

**Visit these EPA websites for more information on
the Superfund process.**

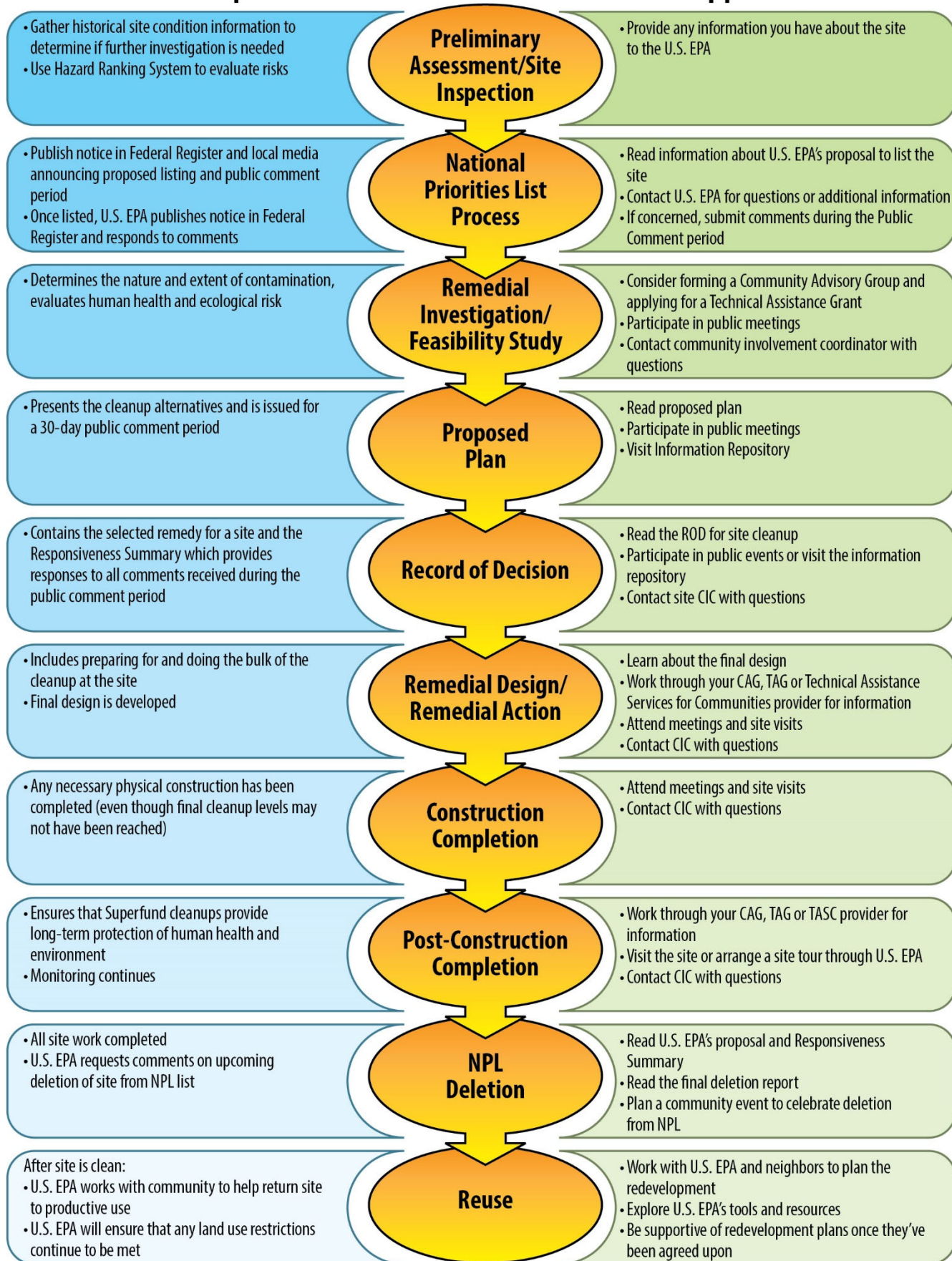
Superfund: www.epa.gov/superfund

Cleanup Process: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleaning-superfund-sites>

Community Involvement: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

Superfund Process Steps

Community Involvement Opportunities



- Gather historical site condition information to determine if further investigation is needed
- Use Hazard Ranking System to evaluate risks

- Publish notice in Federal Register and local media announcing proposed listing and public comment period
- Once listed, U.S. EPA publishes notice in Federal Register and responds to comments

- Determines the nature and extent of contamination, evaluates human health and ecological risk

- Presents the cleanup alternatives and is issued for a 30-day public comment period

- Contains the selected remedy for a site and the Responsiveness Summary which provides responses to all comments received during the public comment period

- Includes preparing for and doing the bulk of the cleanup at the site
- Final design is developed

- Any necessary physical construction has been completed (even though final cleanup levels may not have been reached)

- Ensures that Superfund cleanups provide long-term protection of human health and environment
- Monitoring continues

- All site work completed
- U.S. EPA requests comments on upcoming deletion of site from NPL list

- After site is clean:
- U.S. EPA works with community to help return site to productive use
 - U.S. EPA will ensure that any land use restrictions continue to be met

Appendix F

Recent Communications to the Community

Earlier communications to the community can be found on the [Ellsworth Industrial Park Site Documents and Data](#) page.

Next Phase of Groundwater Investigation Begins

Ellsworth Industrial Park Site

Downers Grove, Illinois

September 2017

For more information

To learn more about the site investigation contact:

For technical questions:

Leslie Blake

EPA Remedial Project Manager

312-353-7921

blake.leslie@epa.gov

Brian Conrath

Illinois EPA Project Manager

217-557-8155

Brian.Conrath@Illinois.gov

For general questions:

Teresa Jones

EPA Community Involvement
Coordinator

312-886-0725

jones.teresa@epa.gov

EPA Chicago Office address:

U.S. EPA Region 5

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

On the web:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>



A contractor collecting groundwater samples.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are supervising an investigation into potentially contaminated groundwater surrounding the Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund site. “Groundwater” is an environmental term for underground sources of fresh water.

The work planned for this investigation will be conducted in phases. The initial phase of the study includes installation of four groundwater monitoring wells. The wells will be installed based upon the groundwater sample results from the first well sampling location. That well is located along the centerline of the historical groundwater plume. A “plume” is a mass of contaminated groundwater that tends to move.

A large sonic drill rig the size of a tow truck will be used. The drill rig uses high frequency mechanical vibration to collect continuous sample cores. Groundwater grab samples will be collected from three intervals at the first well location. Depths will range from 10 feet, 25 feet and 50 feet below the top of bedrock. The depth to the top of bedrock ranges from approximately 110 feet below ground surface to 130 feet.

Continued on next page ...

History and background

The Ellsworth Industrial Park site is an active industrial area in Downers Grove, DuPage County, Ill. Built in the late 1950s, the industrial park currently includes about 135 businesses. The site encompasses the contamination source areas and the area in which chlorinated-solvent groundwater contamination has been detected.

From May 2001 through January 2002, Illinois EPA sampling efforts identified groundwater contamination that threatened private drinking water wells in unincorporated areas of Downers Grove. U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA have worked together to identify possible sources in and near the Ellsworth Industrial Park of the volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, found in the groundwater. The contamination consists mainly of trichloroethylene, or TCE, and tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, which are commonly used chlorinated solvents.

Sometimes with complex cleanup sites, U.S. EPA splits the location into smaller areas called “operable units,” or OUs. To manage this cleanup, the federal Agency divided the site into two operable units. OU 1 consists primarily of commercial and light industrial properties. OU 2 consists of residential, recreational and commercial properties.

On July 28, U.S. EPA and 13 potentially responsible parties, or PRPs, reached a settlement agreement for the Ellsworth Industrial Park site and signed a document known as an Administrative Order of Consent or AOC.

The AOC covers the remedial investigation and feasibility study, or RI/FS, for groundwater in the area of the site known as OU 2. Insufficient information exists on the current nature and extent of groundwater contamination in OU 2. That means the contamination must be fully characterized and cleanup options identified and evaluated in the OU 2 RI/FS.

The investigation is important because it is currently unknown whether people may be exposed to unacceptable levels of contamination if the groundwater plume continues moving. Also, the groundwater aquifer in the area of the site could serve as a potential future source of drinking water.

Cleanup progress

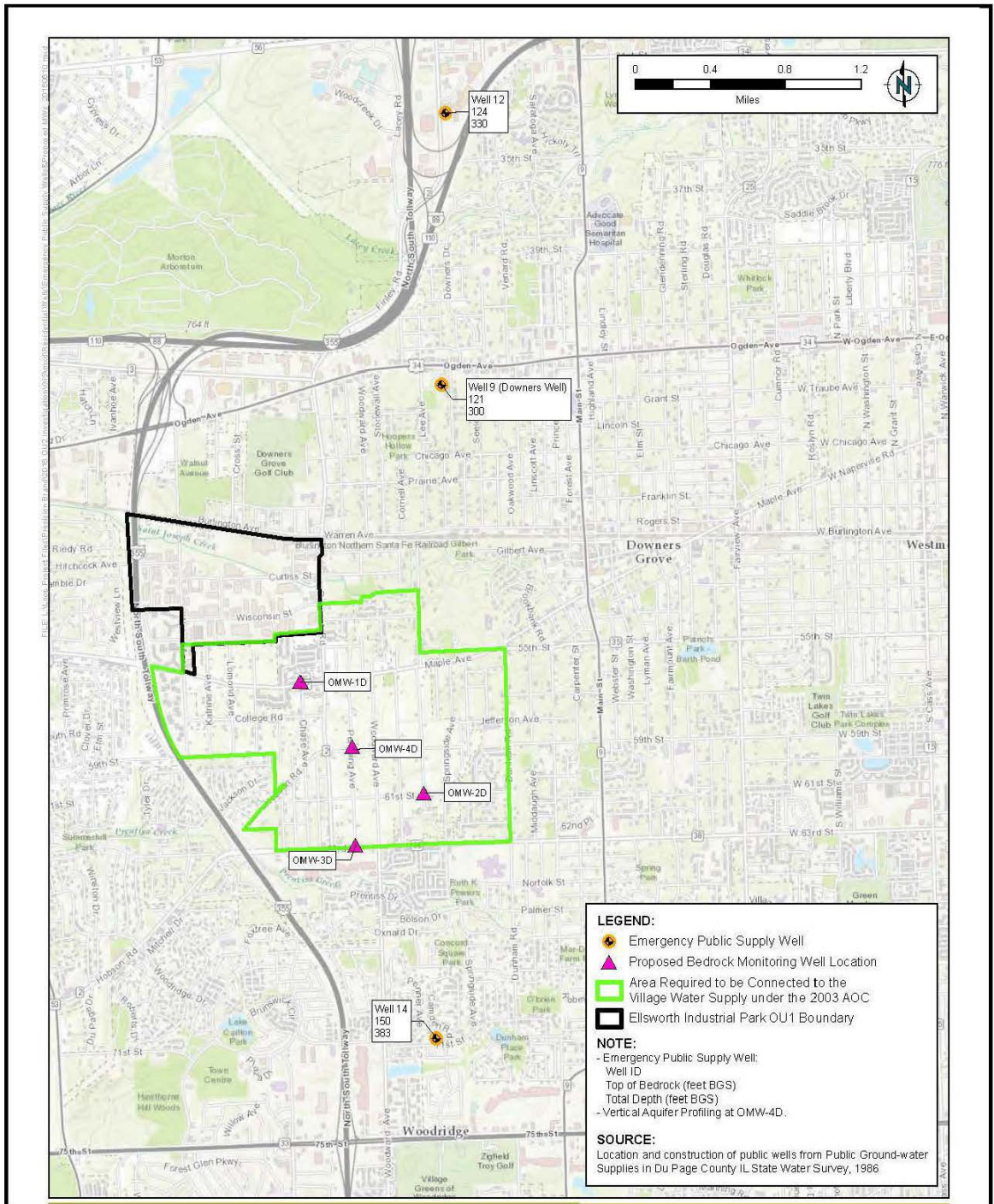
In 2002, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA sent special notice letters to 19 businesses at the industrial park requesting they enter into negotiations to investigate and deal with the park's soil and area groundwater contamination.

In 2003, a group of PRPs, including many of the parties to the new settlement agreement, entered a settlement in which they agreed to fund hookups to a public drinking water supply for 800 residences in unincorporated Downers Grove. Water connections to the 800 homes near the industrial park began in the fall of 2003 and were completed in spring 2004. During this time, U.S. EPA conducted initial studies of the area to determine groundwater characteristics, distribution and flow direction.

In 2005, the same group of PRPs entered into a second settlement for OU 1. They agreed to help U.S. EPA pay for an RI/FS for identification and control of source areas in the industrial park where releases and potential releases of VOCs presented an unacceptable ongoing threat to groundwater. The federal Agency has completed the source control investigation described in that settlement but has decided to defer selection of final source control cleanup steps until after completion of the groundwater RI/FS.

Next steps

The results of the current sampling effort will be used to determine the locations for additional monitoring wells. These wells will be sampled periodically to monitor the contamination in the groundwater and determine what cleanup is necessary.



Map of Ellsworth Industrial Park site with monitoring well locations (shown in purple).



Contact EPA

For more information about the site, contact:

Kirstin Safakas

Community Involvement
Coordinator
312-886-6015
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov

Leslie Blake

Remedial Project Manager
312-353-7921
blake.leslie@epa.gov

EPA Chicago Office address:

U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Visit our website

Site updates and cleanup-related documents are posted at the EPA website for this project:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park

Frequently Asked Questions about EPA's Cleanup

Ellsworth Industrial Park Site

Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois

June 2021

The Ellsworth Industrial Park site is an active industrial area in Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois. The industrial park, built in the late 1950s, currently includes approximately 135 businesses. Multiple businesses in the industrial park used solvents containing volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. The site incorporates the contamination source areas and the area in which groundwater contaminated with chlorinated solvent has been detected.

From May 2001 through January 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency sampling efforts identified groundwater contamination that threatened private drinking water wells in unincorporated areas of Downers Grove. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois EPA have worked together to identify possible sources of the VOC contamination found in the groundwater in and near the Ellsworth Industrial Park. Sampling data indicated that VOC contamination consists mainly of trichloroethene, or TCE, tetrachloroethene, or PCE, and trichloroethane, or TCA, that traveled from source areas at several businesses in the industrial park to residential drinking water wells located to the south and east of the industrial park.

Several questions have been brought up regarding the site and EPA's responses to those questions are listed below. *(Note: some questions have been modified for clarification.)*

1. Is the Ellsworth Industrial Park site on the EPA Superfund National Priorities List?

No, the Ellsworth Industrial Park site is not on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The site is being addressed under the Superfund Alternative approach, which uses the same investigation, cleanup process, and standards that are used for sites listed on the NPL but avoids the lengthy process of listing a site on the NPL.

2. Who is paying for cleanup of the Ellsworth Industrial Park site?

Because the Ellsworth Industrial Park site is being addressed using EPA's Superfund Alternative approach, it is not eligible for federal remedial action cleanup funding. All remedial action cleanup work at sites using the Superfund Alternative approach is funded and conducted by those believed to be potentially responsible for the contamination, with EPA overseeing that work under settlement agreements.

(continued on next page)

3. Does the Ellsworth Industrial Park site receive tax credit/dollars for cleanup activities, and how much credit is given to the developers of the property at 5300 Belmont Road or any other property within the industrial park?

EPA is not aware of, and has no involvement with, any potential state/local tax credits or incentives associated with the redevelopment of the property at 5300 Belmont Road, formerly owned by Magnetrol, Inc., or any other properties identified as potential sources within the industrial park. EPA has not provided federal funding for cleanup or redevelopment activity at the property.

4. Does a developer have to enter into an agreement with EPA to assure construction activities are coordinated with EPA?

It is up to the current owner to decide whether to enter into an agreement with EPA. The Superfund law allows parties to purchase contaminated properties without becoming liable to conduct a cleanup if they meet certain requirements both before and after purchase. Those requirements include taking “reasonable steps” to prevent or limit future releases of hazardous substances at the property. In cases where contamination at the site exceeds EPA’s cleanup standards, EPA may still require other responsible parties (or in some cases, use federal funds) to clean up the property. (For further detail, please see:

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/bona-fide-prospective-purchasers>)

Although it is not required, in some cases a new owner may ask to enter into an agreement with EPA in which EPA approves and oversees work the owner is doing at the property. This type of agreement gives the owner extra assurance that its activities fall within the “reasonable steps” requirements so that they don’t become liable for additional work or costs under Superfund law. EPA usually enters these kinds of agreements when significant work is planned at sites where contamination exceeds EPA’s cleanup standards.

In the case of the former Magnetrol property, because the soils were cleaned up under a 2018 Administrative Order on Consent between EPA

and the former owner, there was no reason to believe contamination remained above EPA’s cleanup levels. EPA suggested to the developer that it could perform its redevelopment work under an agreement with EPA if it wanted more certainty and finality as well as an extra level of liability protection. Under such an agreement the developer would have been required to pay for EPA’s oversight costs, comply with EPA’s requests, and regularly report on its work. EPA explained those protections and limitations in a 2020 “comfort letter” response to the developer. The developer decided to not enter into such an agreement with EPA.

5. How do we know that a thorough and responsible cleanup is completed unless the builders/developers are held accountable by an agency other than themselves?

In the case of the former Magnetrol property, contaminated soils underneath the footprint of the building were cleaned up under a 2018 Administrative Order on Consent with EPA. EPA oversaw that cleanup work and was satisfied that the work was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the order and addressed all known contamination that presented an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. While EPA conducted extensive sampling at the property during the remedial investigation, including efforts to target the most likely areas of historical contamination, it is possible that newly discovered contamination could be exposed during the redevelopment work.

The developer is relying on proper implementation of its Soil Management Plan and the oversight of its consultants to protect the environment. EPA and Illinois EPA have provided comments on the developer’s Soil Management Plan. In this plan the developer will ensure that during excavation activities, if additional areas are found to be contaminated, then those areas will be appropriately addressed (i.e., soils will be characterized for proper disposal). The developer is aware that it faces potential liability if it does not respond properly.

6. Will the redevelopment work at the former Magnetrol property be overseen by EPA?

No. EPA suggested that the developer consider entering into an agreement with EPA to help assure the construction activities were coordinated with EPA to address concerns about triggering potential environmental liability. However, the owner declined to pursue an agreement with EPA. Therefore, EPA is not directly overseeing the excavation or redevelopment work which began in April 2021.

7. How does the public know that cleanup was completed on the former Magnetrol property?

Magnetrol operated a degreasing operation at the site until 2013 when they vacated the building. In July 2018, EPA and Magnetrol entered into an Administrative Order on Consent to address trichloroethene, or TCE, concentrations in soil and groundwater that exceeded cleanup levels at the property then owned by Magnetrol. Under this order, Magnetrol excavated and removed more than 3,200 tons of TCE-contaminated soil that exceeded the 1.1 parts per million cleanup level. EPA oversaw that cleanup work and was satisfied that the work was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the 2018 order.

Under the Administrative Order on Consent, Magnetrol also recorded an Environmental Restrictive Covenant on the Property. An Environmental Restrictive Covenant is a stand-alone document or a clause in a deed that limits or restricts future land uses on a property. All known soil contamination above EPA's cleanup levels at the former Magnetrol property has been addressed. EPA is not aware of any remaining threats that will not be addressed by the Environmental Covenant, which prohibits potable (drinking) use of on-site groundwater and requires vapor mitigation in buildings as precautionary measures.

8. How can one portion of a large Superfund site be redeveloped without a cleanup plan for the site as a whole? What if contamination moves?

In the case of the Ellsworth Industrial Park site, because the site is large and complex, EPA divided the site into two operable units, or OUs,

to address the contamination at the site. Operable units address geographic areas, specific problems, or areas where a specific action is required. OU-1 consists primarily of contaminated soil at commercial/industrial properties in the industrial park. OU-2 consists primarily of contaminated groundwater at residential, recreational, and commercial properties to the south and east of the industrial park.

Under a 2003 Administrative Order on Consent with EPA, a group of potentially responsible parties paid to hook up approximately 800 residences in unincorporated Downers Grove to public drinking water, as several wells in the area exceeded safe drinking water standards. Under a second Administrative Order on Consent signed in 2005, these potentially responsible parties also agreed to help EPA pay for the OU-1 investigation in the industrial park where spills of volatile organic compounds such as tetrachloroethene, or PCE, and TCE made their way into the groundwater. EPA has completed all sampling for the OU-1 investigation.

In 2017, EPA and a group of the potentially responsible parties entered into a third Administrative Order on Consent, under which the potentially responsible parties agreed to perform a remedial investigation and feasibility study for OU-2, to investigate the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at and downgradient of the industrial park, and to evaluate potential groundwater cleanup options. The OU-2 remedial investigation work began in October 2017 and is being conducted in phases. The initial phase of the study included installation of four bedrock groundwater monitoring wells outside of the industrial park. Three of the nine bedrock wells in the industrial park show concentrations above drinking water standards. However, sampling results over time indicate that concentrations are not migrating from the industrial park within bedrock groundwater at concentrations above action levels.

EPA intends to develop a proposed cleanup plan for OU-2 groundwater first. The potentially responsible parties are currently developing the

remedial investigation report, which should be completed later this year. In the interim, EPA has been pursuing removal action Administrative Orders on Consent with individual property owners within the industrial park to expedite cleanup of individual source areas identified in the OU-1 remedial investigation that may present unacceptable risks to human health based on a direct contact threat, volatile organic compound migration into groundwater, and/or vapor intrusion into buildings. To the extent feasible, all agreed cleanups will be consistent with the anticipated source control remedial actions for OU-1.

9. Can contamination from other properties migrate under the Magnetrol development?

EPA has investigated soil and groundwater contamination across the industrial park. Contamination in soil at a handful of locations in the industrial park may continue to migrate into groundwater until soil and groundwater impacts are fully addressed by the final site cleanup. Sampling data shows that any ongoing migration does not impact neighboring residents. There are still vapor intrusion concerns at several properties within the industrial park, which will be addressed as part of future OU-1 source control removal activities.

10. What is vapor intrusion?

Vapor intrusion is a way that volatile chemicals in soil and groundwater can enter and build up inside buildings. When chemicals spill or leak into the ground, they can contaminate the soil and the groundwater, which can then seep into buildings through foundation cracks and holes. Depending on the type and amount, these chemical vapors can cause indoor air pollution which may possibly affect your health. To assure interim protection at this site, the Environmental Restrictive Covenant on the 5300 Belmont property requires that any building on the parcel must operate a vapor mitigation system.

11. What is a vapor mitigation system?

Installing a vapor mitigation system is an effective way to keep volatile chemicals from entering a property. Mitigation systems are usually made up of a fan and a system of pipes that draw soil gases from beneath the property

and release them outside so they can scatter and break down naturally.

12. What is TCE and/or PCE?

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a colorless, volatile liquid. The two major uses of TCE are for degreasing metal and as a chemical that is used to make other chemicals, especially refrigerants. TCE has also been used as an extraction solvent for greases, oils, fats, waxes, and tars; by the textile processing industry to scour cotton, wool, and other fabrics; in dry cleaning operations; and as a component of adhesives, lubricants, paints, varnishes, paint strippers, pesticides, and cold metal cleaners. The health effects of TCE depend on how much you are exposed to and the length of that exposure.

Tetrachloroethene, or PCE, is a man-made chemical widely used in dry cleaning and for degreasing metal. It is also used as a starting material (building block) for making other chemicals and is used in some consumer products. Similar to TCE, health effects depend on how much you are exposed to and the length of that exposure.

Information on various contaminants can be found at:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>.

People should contact their local health departments or physician if they are concerned about exposures or symptoms.

13. Where can people go to get additional background information on the site?

The EPA webpage for the Ellsworth Industrial Park site is located at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park. EPA's website provides information on the nature and extent of contamination and the cleanup measures taken at the site. The website also houses all documents related to the site.



EPA Would Like to Meet With You!

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives would like to speak with you about the Ellsworth Industrial Park site in Downers Grove, Illinois. The agency is continuing to work with Illinois EPA in overseeing cleanup across the site under U.S. EPA's Superfund Alternative program.

Part of U.S. EPA's oversight includes engaging with local residents to listen and learn about the needs of the surrounding community. The agency is committed to being transparent whilst sharing information and building positive relationships with community members through private one-on-one conversations. These conversations help the agency build a Community Involvement Plan, or CIP. This plan is the communication strategy guide the agency uses to continue meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund cleanup process.

Kirstin Safakas, U.S. EPA Community Coordinator, and Kevin McCartney, U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager, will be available to meet with you either *in person* or via the *Zoom* platform from **February 27 to March 2**, at the **Westmont Public Library**, located at **428 Cass Avenue, Westmont, Illinois**. During the casual 30-minute appointment, staff will ask questions to help the agency understand your concerns about the site's ongoing investigations and cleanup.

If you would like to schedule a time to meet with U.S. EPA, please contact Caeli Cleary, EPA contractor, at 312-201-7769 or caeli.cleary@tetrattech.com. You may also contact Kirstin Safakas directly at 312-919-4621 or safakas.kirstin@epa.gov. For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>. We look forward to meeting and learning from you!



EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for Chemring Building

Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund Site
Downers Grove, Illinois

March 2023

Learn More

To learn more about the site, use your smartphone's camera scan function to follow this QR code or visit the link beneath it:



www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park

To learn more about PCE from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, or ATSDR, follow this QR code or visit the link beneath it:



www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf

Contact Us

For technical questions:

Kevin McCartney
EPA Project Manager
mccartney.kevin@epa.gov
312-886-0234

For general questions:

Kirstin Safakas
EPA Community Liaison
safakas.kirstin@epa.gov
312-919-4621

Note: You may request a one-on-one conversation with Ms. Safakas to learn about the site and share your concerns.

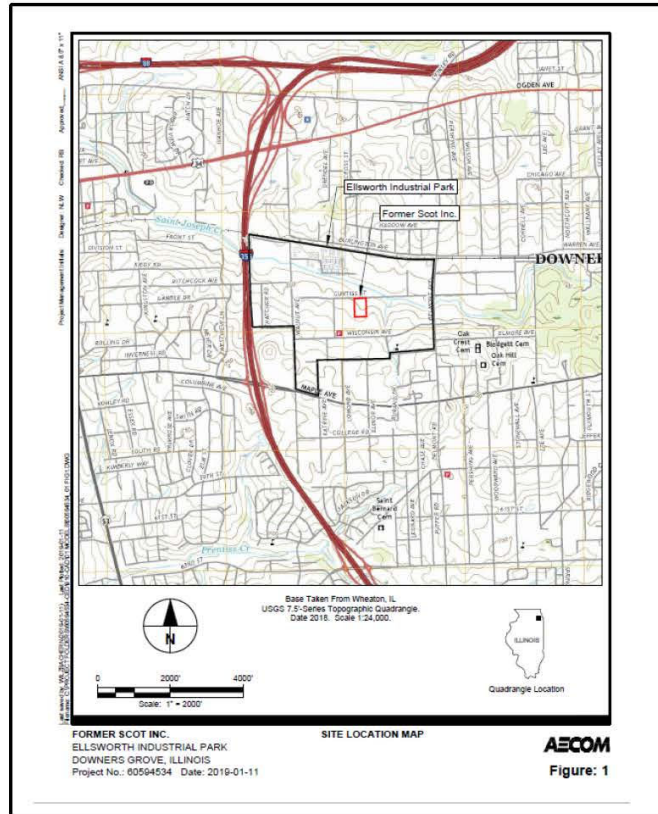


Figure 1 is a map highlighting the boundaries of Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund site and the Chemring building.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or U.S. EPA, has opened a 30-day public comment period on a cleanup proposal, referred to as an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, or EE/CA, to address groundwater (water underground) contamination around the area known as Chemring, a building centrally located within the Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund site in Downers Grove, Illinois.

The Chemring building was constructed in 1958 and has been used for industrial purposes since its development. Initial site operations included the manufacture of globes from 1960 through approximately the late 1970s. Current operations, which include the manufacturing and testing of military ejection systems, began in 1976. The former Scot company, now Chemring, used tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, as a degreasing agent for various manufacturing processes into the early 1980s.

The cleanup proposal for the Chemring building involves the installation of systems known as soil vapor extraction, or SVE, and sub-slab depressurization, or SSD, below the building foundation. These systems are proposed to cleanup PCE contaminated soil found beneath the building and remove associated vapors so that they cannot enter the overlying building.

Background

The Ellsworth Industrial Park site is an active industrial area in Downers Grove, Illinois. Built in the late 1950s, the industrial park currently includes about 135 businesses. The site encompasses the contamination source areas and the area in which chlorinated-solvent contamination had been found in groundwater.

From May 2001 through January 2002, Illinois EPA sampling efforts identified groundwater contamination that threatened private drinking water wells in unincorporated areas of Downers Grove. U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA have worked together to identify possible sources in and near the Ellsworth Industrial Park of the volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, found in the groundwater. The contamination consists mainly of trichloroethylene, or TCE, and tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, which are commonly used chlorinated solvents.

Sometimes with complex cleanup sites, U.S. EPA splits sites into smaller areas referred to as “operable units,” or OUs. To manage this cleanup, the U.S. EPA divided the Ellsworth Industrial Park site into two operable units. OU1 consists of the industrial park source areas, and OU2 consists of groundwater at any locations where contamination from the industrial park portion of the site has migrated or threatens to migrate, focusing primarily on areas downgradient of the industrial park.

Sitewide Cleanup Progress

In 2002, U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA sent letters to 19 businesses within the site requesting they enter negotiations to investigate and deal with the park’s soil and area groundwater contamination. In 2003, a group of potentially responsible parties, or PRPs (including many of the parties in the 2002 settlement agreement) entered into a settlement agreement in which they agreed to fund hookups to a public drinking water supply for 800 residences in unincorporated Downers Grove. Water connections began in 2003 and were completed in 2004. During this time, U.S. EPA also began conducting initial studies of the area to determine the characteristics, distribution, and flow direction of site groundwater.

In 2005, the same group of PRPs entered into a second settlement for OU1. They agreed to help U.S. EPA pay for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, or RI/FS, to identify and control source areas within the industrial park where both releases and potential releases of VOCs presented an unacceptable threat to groundwater. U.S. EPA completed the OU1 source control investigation as of 2014 but decided to defer selection of a final remedy for OU1 until after completion of the OU2 RI/FS.

U.S. EPA entered into a third settlement agreement with 13 PRPs in 2017, asking the PRPs conduct a separate RI/FS for the groundwater within OU2. This work is ongoing and has shown that the previously contaminated aquifer downgradient and south of the site is no longer contaminated with chlorinated solvents above federal drinking water standards, also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs.

Since 2018, U.S. EPA has entered into several additional settlement agreements with individual PRPs to expedite cleanup within the industrial park while work continues at both OUs. These expedited cleanup efforts include the recent work at Chemring, which entered into a settlement agreement with U.S. EPA on January 26, 2022, to conduct an EE/CA and Non-Time Critical Removal Action to address solvent contamination in soil and soil vapor at the property. This work is being conducted in phases, first with the cleanup of contamination beneath the Chemring building, followed by the cleanup of contamination found on areas of the property outside the footprint of the building.

Ways to Submit Comments

U.S. EPA will receive, document, and respond to all comments sent through Sunday, April 30, 2023. There are several ways to submit comments on the proposed cleanup for the Chemring building, including via the following:

- By website at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park>
- By email to safakas.kirstin@epa.gov
- By voicemail at 312-919-4621
- By mail to Kirstin Safakas
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Explanation of Evaluation Criteria

U.S. EPA compared each removal alternative against the following three criteria:

- 1) **Effectiveness:** This criterion is applied to evaluate the protectiveness of a removal option to meet stated objectives within the scope of action.
- 2) **Implementability:** This criterion is applied to evaluate the technical and administrative feasibility and the availability of necessary resources to support the removal option.
- 3) **Cost:** This criterion is applied to evaluate the costs of each removal action.

EPA proposes Alternative 6 [see next page] because it provides the best balance of the evaluation criteria and will be permanent and effective in the long term.

Summary of Proposed Alternatives for the Chemring Building

Alternative 1: No Action

Regulations require that “No Action” be evaluated to establish a baseline for comparison. Under this alternative, U.S. EPA would take no action to prevent exposure, leaving existing soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater contamination. Human health and ecological risk would not be addressed. This alternative would involve **no time or funding**, aside from conducting a five-year review of the site.

Alternative 2: Capping

This alternative involves capping the PCE-contaminated soil by a low-permeability cover, such as the existing building, which would be required to be in place as long as contamination is present in the soil above an acceptable level. The concrete floor of the building already serves as a cap, and therefore there are no associated costs. The floor does not prevent vapor from getting into the building, nor does it reduce PCE contamination in the soil, so this method alone would not be effective.

Alternative 3: Excavation

Excavation involves removing contaminated soil and disposing of it at facility equipped to handle hazardous waste. While this method traditionally is an effective way to deal with contaminated soil, the presence of the building in active industrial setting means that it will not be possible to remove the contamination completely and would disrupt facility operations. The estimated cost for excavation at this site is \$800,000 to \$1.2 million over a relatively short period of time (two months). However, excavation would need to be combined with other methods to meet remediation goals, and thus this alternative is not expected to be effective in the short term nor long term.

Alternative 4: Sub-Slab Depressurization System (SSD)

SSD is a ventilation system that pulls soil gases from beneath a concrete floor and vents them into the atmosphere. Such a system has demonstrated success with abating exposure risks to soil vapor and has been pilot-tested at this site. The estimated cost for installation and operation of an SSD is \$755,000 for a 10-year period. However, since SSD does not remove contaminants from the soil, it would need to be combined with another method to meet remediation goals. Further, an SSD system would need to operate indefinitely if the source contamination remains.

Alternative 5: Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE)

SVE reduces concentrations of VOCs like PCE in the soil and soil vapor by applying a vacuum to extraction wells. Soil vapor emissions are often filtered by activated carbon before being released into the surrounding atmosphere, if needed. SVE systems have demonstrable success with mitigating similar soil contamination, and this method has been pilot-tested at the Chemring site. The estimated cost for installation and operation of an SVE is \$750,000 for a one-year period. However, it may take one year or more to reduce PCE concentrations beneath the building to an acceptable level and during this time it would not completely mitigate vapor intrusion inside the building. Therefore, the SVE would need to be combined with another method to be protective of human health.

Alternative 6 (*EPA's Preferred Alternative*): SSD & SVE

A combination of SSD and SVE will remediate soil to or below the site remediation goal, while also protecting indoor air long term. The estimated cost for installation and operation of both SSD and SVE systems is \$890,000 for a one-year period. EPA estimates that the SVE will run for approximately one year, at which time the vacuum on the SVE system would be decreased to operate the SVE similarly to the SSD system in mitigating vapor intrusion. Sampling of indoor air and/or sub-slab vapor will be performed to confirm that no risk remains before the SSD system would be turned off.

Our Findings

Each alternative would be protective of the environment, however, the protection of human health is not guaranteed equally in each option. Only Alternatives 4 and 6 are protective of human health by addressing vapor intrusion; only Alternative 6 addresses both vapor intrusion and reducing soil contamination. Implementing Alternative 6 would be restricted to on-site areas, and little disruption to the surrounding community is expected. A Health and Safety Plan will be prepared before implementation to ensure that the health and safety of people onsite and offsite will not be affected by any proposed activity during installation, operation, and decommissioning.

You are invited to review and comment on...

**U.S. EPA's Proposed Cleanup
for the Chemring Building**
within the
Ellsworth Industrial Park Superfund site
Public Comments Accepted from April 1 to April 30

Prior to making a final cleanup decision, U.S. EPA will review comments received during the public comment period. Based on these comments, U.S. EPA may modify its recommended cleanup, so your opinion is important. To review the plan, and for more information about the site, please visit www.epa.gov/superfund/ellsworth-industrial-park.

**U.S. EPA Proposed Cleanup Released for Ellsworth Industrial
Superfund Site's Chemring Building: Public Comment Period Open**



Appendix G

Environmental Justice and U.S. EPA's commitment to affected communities.

EPA defines environmental justice as fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people – regardless of race, color, national origin, or income – with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, or commercial operations, or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Meaningful involvement means that potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision-making about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health. For more information on environmental justice, please visit the EPA Environmental Justice webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

Find out more about what our regional offices are doing for environmental justice in your community!

Region 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617-918-1111

Region 2 (NY, NJ, PA, VA)
290 Broadway, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-637-9000

Region 3 (MD, DE, DC, PA, VA, WV)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-814-9000

Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
63 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-562-9000

Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
77 West Jackson Blvd. (MC T-175)
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
Phone: 312-353-2000

Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
3495 Ross Ave. Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: 214-695-2200

Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
11201 Renner Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64219
Phone: 816-251-7003

Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
1596 Wykeg Street
Bismarck, ND 58002-1129
Phone: 701-312-6112

Region 9 (CA, AZ, HI, NV, Pacific Islands)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-947-3000

Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)
1202 54th Ave. (MD-142)
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-553-1200

Tools and Products for Environmental Justice Action

OEI programs have established the following tools and resources to facilitate and support the incorporation of environmental justice considerations into agency actions. These cross-cutting efforts aim to create consistency and clarity around how EPA identifies and addresses environmental justice concerns.

EJSCREEN

To better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of public health and the environment, EPA has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. EJSCREEN provides users with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. EPA made this tool publicly available online to be more transparent about how we consider environmental justice in our work, assist our stakeholders in making informed decisions, and create a common starting point for dialogue with partners and the public. It can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

Policy

EPA released two documents related to the consideration of environmental justice during rulemaking processes. The first of these, *Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of an Action*, fosters an understanding and ensures consistency by EPA staff as they consider environmental justice during rulemaking actions. The second document, *Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis*, provides the technical understandings to fully consider environmental justice during rulemakings. Both documents can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>.

Training and Workshops

OEI provides training and coordinates workshops for internal and external stakeholders on a broad range of issues relating to environmental justice and equitable development. OEI ensures that Agency staff are trained on the most current data and resources available for the successful integration of environmental justice principles in their work. OEI continually engages the public and other governmental partners to enhance the tools, methods, and practices for full integration and consideration of environmental justice concerns.

Science

Science plays an important role in providing a strong basis for action to protect the health and environment of populations that may be especially vulnerable to environmental hazards. EPA's new technical guidance for assessing environmental justice in regulatory actions was developed with participation from the public. OEI is working with the Office of Research and Development to implement a new Environmental Justice Research Roadmap, which integrates environmental justice-related research across six National Research Programs. To read about these scientific developments, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-resources/documents>

Environmental Justice Legal Tools

The Legal Tools Development document, developed by EPA's Office of General Counsel, provides an overview of several discretionary legal authorities that EPA may consider using to more fully ensure that its programs, policies, and activities fully protect human health and the environment in minority and low-income communities. Some of the tools identified are already in use today; others have not yet been applied in an environmental justice setting. EJ Legal Tools is not a document prescribing when and how the Agency should undertake specific actions.



About the Office of Environmental Justice

For over 25 years, OEJ has worked to address the disproportionately adverse human health and environmental impacts in overburdened communities by integrating environmental justice considerations throughout the Agency.

Created in 1992, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) coordinates Agency efforts to address the needs of vulnerable populations by decreasing environmental burdens, increasing environmental benefits, and working collaboratively to build healthy, sustainable communities. OEJ provides financial and technical assistance to communities working constructively and collaboratively to address environmental justice issues. The Office also works with local, state, and federal governments; tribal governments; community organizations; business and industry; and academia, to establish partnerships seeking to achieve protection from environmental and health hazards for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

To accomplish this mission, OEJ has created the following programs, policies, and activities to assist communities in building their capacity, to better engage federal agencies to help them understand environmental justice issues; to incorporate the voices of communities into agency decisions; and to provide tools and resources for promoting the principles of environmental justice.

Strategic Opportunities for Advancing Environmental Justice

An integral part of the Agency's mission is to focus our attention on the environmental and public health challenges that face our nation's minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous populations. Our approach is both collaborative and strategic – working with partners to create holistic solutions that make a difference in communities through better policies, tools, and application of resources. These approaches have been captured through successive EJ strategic plans for the Agency.

The first of these plans largely focused on the creation of better tools, policies, and guidance to fill important gaps. Currently we are focused on these main strategic areas:

- We strive to strengthen and expand our governmental partnerships, particularly focused on the proactive efforts of state, tribal, and local governments to advance environmental justice.
- We are also focused on the implementation and use of the tools and guidance created previously in a way that is measurable and significant.
- We endeavor to demonstrate measurable progress on significant issues, including reducing disparities in childhood blood lead levels and working to ensure that all people served by small community and tribal water systems have drinking water that meets applicable health-based standards.



For More Information

To find out more about the Office of Environmental Justice, please call 202-564-2515, or visit: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

Call the OEJ helpline for a direct way to provide feedback and ask questions related to environmental justice. Call the helpline at 1-800-367-9115 or email ojehelpline@epa.gov



November 2, 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.



OEJ Milestones



Environmental Justice Integration

The EPA actively seeks to incorporate the principles of environmental justice at all levels of the Agency. In addition to developing a strategic plan that directly support the integration of environmental justice considerations internally and with other federal officials, the Agency partners with federal, state, local, and tribal departments, as well as with other stakeholders to communities, business and industry, academia, etc., to assist in the consideration and incorporation of environmental justice into their practices and processes.

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG)
The EJ IWG works to integrate the principles of environmental justice through the collaboration of 17 federal agencies and White House offices. Through the EJ IWG, the federal government assists overburdened and underserved communities in the implementation of comprehensive solutions to local environmental and human health challenges. The EJ IWG strives to ensure the federal government is accessible to communities and other stakeholders working to address environmental justice concerns; aware of the environmental justice issues confronting communities to facilitate coordinated and collaborative federal assistance; and accountable to explain federal efforts to achieve environmental justice.

International Human Rights & Rights of Indigenous Peoples
EPA collaborates with the U.S. State Department and other federal agencies to engage other countries in sharing best practices and approaches to provide environmental and public health protection to vulnerable populations. EPA conducts the work to help fulfill the U.S. international human rights treaty obligations.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA provides a framework to foster effective, efficient, and consistent consideration of environmental justice for decision-making on federal actions that affect the environment and human health. The Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in NEPA Reviews, a compilation of approaches gleaned from a 4-year review of agency practices by more than 200 federal NEPA practitioners, consists of new solutions that provide guiding principles and specific steps to consider during the NEPA process. Federal agencies are implementing the Promising Practices through a variety of mechanisms, including cross-agency briefings and trainings, publications (e.g. articles, FAQs), and stakeholder engagement.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each federal agency is required to ensure that all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance do not discriminate against recipients in any way based on race, color, or national origin. OEJ works closely with the EPA's External Civil Rights Compliance Office to share best practices, lessons learned, approaches, and tools to help prevent or resolve potential civil rights complaints.

Direct Support

The EPA provides direct support through financial and technical assistance to vulnerable, low-income, minority, and tribal communities seeking to understand and develop holistic solutions to their environmental and public health challenges. These resources are allocated to improve the quality of the air, land, and water so that communities may live, work, play, pray, and go to school in healthier, more sustainable environments.

Financial Resources for Creating Healthy, Sustainable & Equitable Communities
OEJ works directly with communities to implement solutions that address local environmental and health concerns. The Office provides financial assistance through two opportunities:
• The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, which supports small projects that assist communities as they develop their vision for revitalization.
• The Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, which supports implementation level projects as communities seek to apply holistic solutions to their most pressing challenges.

These competitive grant opportunities support overburdened and underserved populations and create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships to improve local environments and public health. As of 2015, since its inception, the Office has awarded more than \$26 million in financial assistance to nearly 1,500 community-based organizations.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program

Through the EPA's national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program, communities enhance their ability to be meaningfully involved in the decision making process by learning how to better understand the science, regulations, and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. The TASC program benefits communities by explaining technical findings and answering community questions, helping them understand complex environmental issues, and supporting their active roles in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection. The TASC program can also provide opportunities for environmental education, bring diverse groups together, and strengthen community engagement.

TASC services can include: information assistance and expertise, community education, information assistance needs evaluation, and plan development other assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making.

Partnerships and Engagement

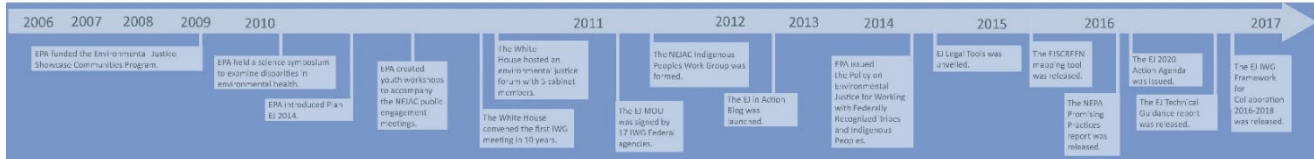
The EPA recognizes the necessity of meaningfully engaging stakeholders, such as through public participation, in an effort to sustain partnerships and involve those who are affected in the decision making process so that future decisions may best serve the interests of our most vulnerable communities. The Agency continues to encourage public stakeholder engagement as a critical component of community revitalization.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)
The mission of NEJAC is to provide independent advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator about broad, crosscutting issues related to environmental justice. NEJAC also holds public meetings to receive comments, questions, and recommendations regarding environmental justice issues. Since 1993, NEJAC has developed dozens of recommendation reports and advice letters to help the agency better address the needs of disadvantaged and underserved communities.

To read NEJAC reports on the twenty-year retrospective of its activities and impact, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nejac>

Tribal Consultation & Indigenous People's Engagement
To engage more effectively with federally recognized tribes and all other indigenous peoples on their priority environmental and public health concerns, the Agency is working to implement the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. Under the leadership of CEJ, EPA is implementing this Policy in coordination and collaboration with tribes, other federal agencies, states, indigenous organizations, and all other interested stakeholders, as well as addressing issues raised within the context of international human rights treaty obligations.

To learn more about OEJ's efforts on addressing tribal and indigenous environmental and public health issues, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>



https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-09/documents/epa_office_of_environmental_justice_factsheet.pdf