

## What is Superfund?

In 1980, the U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly called Superfund. This law was passed in response to growing public concern about health and environmental threats from hazardous waste sites. Superfund requires EPA to deal with abandoned, accidentally spilled, or illegally dumped hazardous substances from the past. Putting a site on the Superfund National Priorities List triggers an extensive assessment of the site. This is called the Remedial Investigation. If the RI determines there is a likelihood of risk to human health or the environment, additional actions may be taken. EPA can take three types of actions, known as response actions, to deal with abandoned hazardous waste sites: emergency responses, interim actions, and long-term actions. Depending on the size and complexity of a site, cleanup can happen quickly, or it can take many years.

## Who pays for cleanup?

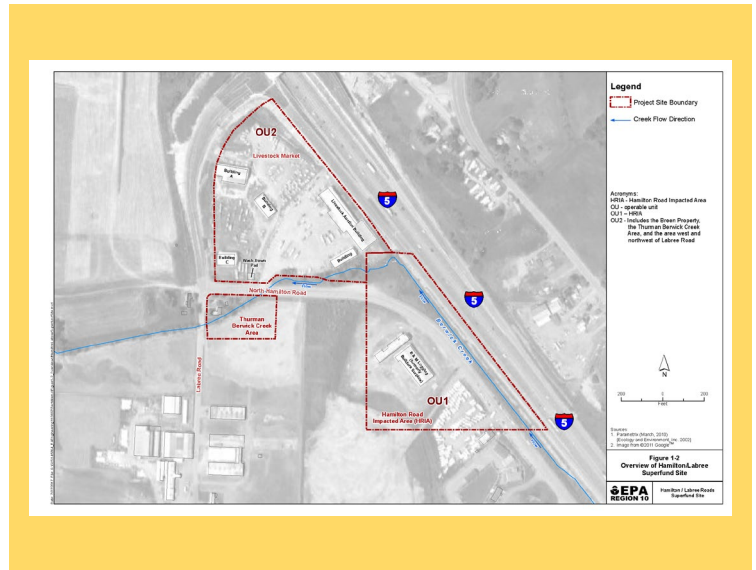
Superfund law says EPA can make the people or organizations responsible for contamination pay for site studies and cleanup. These people or organizations are called Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). EPA negotiates with PRPs to reach agreements on what studies and cleanup actions are appropriate. This type of site is called a PRP-lead site. Sometimes, EPA pays for studies and cleanups from funds appropriated by Congress because no PRPs have been identified. This is referred to as a Superfund-lead or "fund-lead" site, for short. If PRPs are later identified, EPA will work to make PRPs pay back the costs.

For more information about Superfund, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

# Hamilton Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination

## Why is “Hamilton Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination” a Superfund site?

The site is contaminated with PCE. PCE is also called PERC, perchloroethylene, or tetrachloroethene. It’s a chemical used for dry cleaning, metal degreasing, and other industrial processes. In the past, PCE was spilled and dumped in Berwick Creek. Also, containers of hazardous chemicals were buried in the area of what is now known as the Livestock Market. Release of the chemical from the buried and dumped containers contaminated soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water. EPA and the State conducted early cleanup actions to address immediate threats. Risks to people’s health and the environment remain. In 2013, EPA selected an interim remedy for the site.



## What is going on at this site?

More cleanup work is expected to begin in 2020. Work includes:

- temporarily rerouting Berwick Creek around contaminated areas;
- removing PCE from the areas with highest concentrations, by heating the PCE-contaminated soil and sediment then collecting the contaminants before discharging either the air or water, and by treating contaminated groundwater using bioremediation;
- placing limits on future activities at the site;
- and site monitoring.

This interim remedy will inform future cleanup actions at the site.

## For more information

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For information about US Environmental Protection Agency’s work on this site, please visit:  
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/hamilton-labree>