SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

John Deere (Dubuque Works) Superfund Site
Dubuque, Iowa

Site Location: 18600 South John Deere Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Size: 1,447 acres

Existing Site Infrastructure: All major types of infrastructure are located on site.

Current Site Uses: The John Deere Dubuque Works factory is located on site. The facility makes a variety of heavy equipment for construction projects and agricultural and industrial uses. It also houses the company’s dealer technical assistance and marketing assistance centers.

Use Restrictions: Residential and agricultural uses are prohibited. Groundwater use and well installation for drinking water purposes or irrigation are restricted.

Surrounding Population: within 0.5 mile, 50 people; within 2.5 miles, 5,777 people; within 4 miles, 26,723 people.

The John Deere (Dubuque Works) Superfund site covers nearly 1,500 acres about 2.5 miles north of the city of Dubuque in Dubuque County, Iowa. Most of the site is undeveloped. The manufacturing facility on site has been in operation since 1946. Former waste disposal activities and a fuel line leak in 1980 contaminated groundwater at the site.

As a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility, the site was never finalized on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List. Deere & Company led cleanup of the site in accordance with a 1989 consent decree. Cleanup included provision of a safe potable water supply for the facility, groundwater extraction and containment, land and groundwater use restrictions, and a contingency plan to prevent contaminant migration in the event of a facility shutdown. In 2009, an environmental covenant was placed on the site pursuant to the Iowa Uniform Environmental Covenants Act to enhance the future enforceability and permanence of existing deed restrictions.

Thanks to collaboration between EPA and Deere & Company, the John Deere facility has continued operating during the cleanup process and protects...
site workers from contamination. The facility makes heavy construction equipment, including backhoes, bulldozers and forestry equipment. The company’s technical assistance and marketing assistance centers on site provide dealers with specialized assistance and answer customer questions about machine configurations, special applications and other operating issues.

Deere & Company is proactively addressing uncertainties noted in a 2014 ecological risk assessment by placing a vegetative cover over areas of exposed soil on the former landfill. The cover includes native grasses and wildflowers. The site’s soil improvement plan will make sure that ecological receptors are not exposed to contamination, while also providing pollinator habitat and a walking area for facility employees.

In April 2018, EPA Region 7 recognized the company’s restoration efforts at the site with its Leading Environmentalism and Forwarding Sustainability Award.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Melissa Friedland | (703) 603-8864
friedland.melissa@epa.gov
Frank Avvisato | (703) 603-8949
avisato.frank@epa.gov
Tonya Howell | (913) 551-7589
howell.tonya@epa.gov

In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency’s core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force