Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending

Commerce Street Plume Superfund Site
Williston, Vermont

Site Description

The Commerce Street Plume Superfund site in Williston, Vermont, includes a former wastewater lagoon and a 70+ acre groundwater plume, which extends beneath the former Alling Industrial Park (AIP) on Commerce Street, portions of residential Kirby Lane, and portions of South Bownell and Shunpike roads, which are mixed commercial and residential. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in April 2005.

The AIP’s light industrial and commercial development began in 1946 and continues to present day. Between 1979 and 1986, Mitec Systems Corporation, which leased property on Commerce Street, operated as an electroplater of microwave components and disposed of an undetermined quantity of wastewater into an unlined lagoon at the property’s rear. Disposal of solvents to a sanitary leach field is also suspected. In February 2010, EPA reached an $120,000 ability-to-pay settlement with Mitec Telecom, Inc. on Mitec Systems’ behalf.

Contaminants of concern include metals (arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (primarily trichloroethylene). Public water and sewer are supplied to the area, and there are no known current contaminated groundwater exposures. However, there is the potential for groundwater to be used for drinking water and other household uses in the future.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- The site’s 2015 selected remedy consists of excavation and off-site disposal of 630 cubic yards of contaminated soil; a treatment train of in situ bioremediation followed by monitored natural attenuation and institutional controls to address a 70+ acre groundwater plume; and vapor mitigation at one residential property.

- Remedial design started in June 2016 for this phase of the cleanup, focusing on contaminated soil on the former Mitec property. Soil excavation, off-site disposal and restoration was completed in September 2018.

- The remainder of the Remedial Design work was led by the state of Vermont under a cooperative agreement with EPA. The vapor mitigation design (involving one residential property) was completed in September 2018 and the groundwater design was completed in June 2019.

- The state of Vermont is conducting the vapor mitigation remedy. Construction began in October 2019 and is expected to be completed in Winter 2020.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2020

The predominant work remaining is the in-situ bioremediation treatment of the 70+ acre contaminated groundwater plume.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2020

EPA has provided approximately $4 million for cleanup activities at the site.