

## Site Redevelopment Profile

# John Deere (Dubuque Works) Superfund Site

18600 South John Deere Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

### Property Overview

#### Size

1,447 acres

#### 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

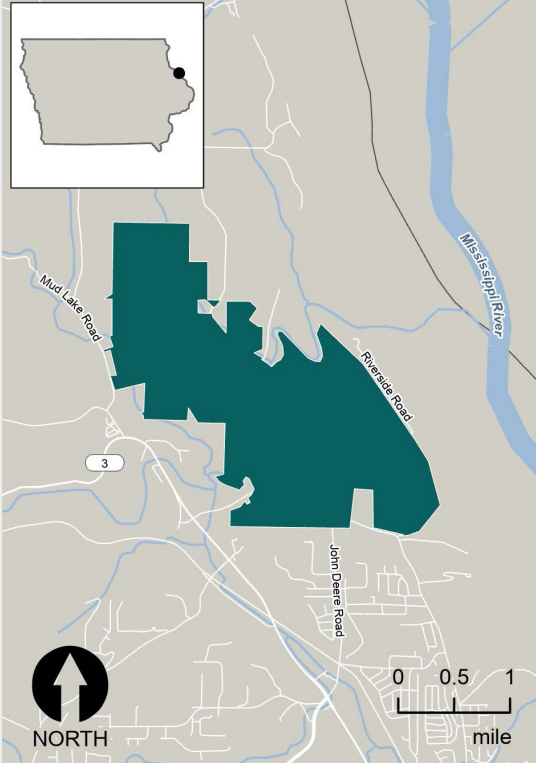
- Residential and agricultural uses are prohibited.
- Groundwater use and well installation for drinking water purposes or irrigation are restricted.

#### Surrounding Population

**379**  
1 MILE

**9,938**  
3 MILES

**52,227**  
5 MILES



A map of the site in Iowa.

### Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

#### 1946-present

The John Deere Dubuque Works factory operated on site.

#### 1960s-1980

Waste disposal activities and a fuel line leak resulted in groundwater contamination.

#### 1985

EPA proposed the site for listing on the Superfund program's National Priorities List.

#### 1986-1989

EPA and Deere & Company signed a consent decree enabling site investigations and cleanup.

#### 1988

EPA removed the site from proposed listing on the National Priorities List.

#### 2009

Environmental covenant placed on the site.

#### 2018

EPA Region 7 recognized the company's restoration efforts at the site with its Leading Environmentalism and Forwarding Sustainability Award.

Site monitoring, operation and maintenance activities are ongoing.

## History and Cleanup

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.

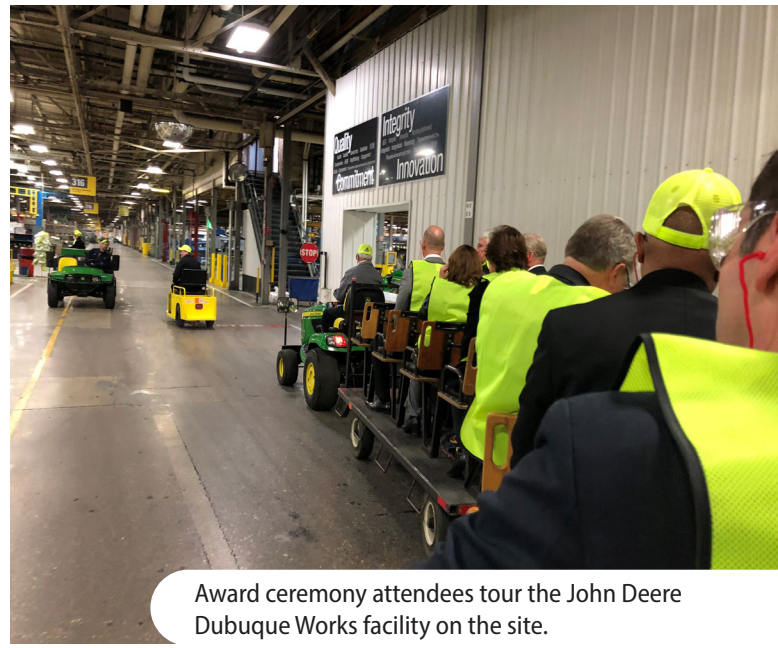
As a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility, the site was never finalized on the Superfund program's National Priorities List. Deere & Company led cleanup of the site in accordance with a 1989 consent decree. Cleanup included provision of a safe potable water supply for the facility, 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.

## Redevelopment

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 addressed 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.



Award ceremony attendees tour the John Deere Dubuque Works facility on the site.



Jim Gulliford, EPA Region 7 Regional Administrator, presents the Leading Environmentalism and Forwarding Sustainability Award to Mark Dickson, the manager of the John Deere Dubuque Works.

## Contacts

For more information, please contact:

**Chelsea Sebetich**  
(202) 566-1151  
[sebetich.chelsea@epa.gov](mailto:sebetich.chelsea@epa.gov)

**Tonya Howell**  
(913) 551-7589  
[howell.tonya@epa.gov](mailto:howell.tonya@epa.gov)

