United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Issues Proposed Plan to Protect Human Health at the Riverside Industrial Park Superfund Site

Community Update **July 2020**

Public Participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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Virtual Public Meeting
August 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Registration:
https://epa-riverside-proposed-plan.eventbrite.com

For more information on the site or to review the Proposed Plan, visit:
www.epa.gov/superfund/riverside-industrial

Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed a plan to address contaminated soil, gas trapped in the soil, called soil gas, sewer water, waste, and groundwater at the Riverside Industrial Park Superfund site (site). Based on an evaluation of various alternatives, EPA, in consultation with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), is proposing the following actions:

- Remove and dispose of waste. Waste from underground storage tanks (USTs), contaminated soil around the USTs, and various wastes found across the site would be transferred into appropriate containers or transport vehicles for off-site treatment and/or disposal.

- Remove and dispose of sewer water. Contaminated sewer water and solids from a defunct sewer line would be transferred into appropriate containers or transport vehicles for off-site treatment and/or disposal along with proper closure of the sewer line.

- Assess impacts of soil gas on indoor air in buildings on the site and put into place engineering and institutional controls. Sub-slab soil gas and/or indoor air quality will be assessed in existing buildings at the site and, if needed, vapor systems would be installed to protect future occupants from vapor intrusion. Buildings constructed in the future would include a vapor barrier or vapor intrusion mitigation system to protect occupants. EPA would ensure that site-wide deed notices and appropriate restrictions are established or amended to provide notice of certain property use restrictions.

- Cap and take other precautions to protect people from contaminated soil. Lead-contaminated soil and fill in the vicinity of Building #7 would be excavated and disposed of off-site. The bulkhead would be reinforced or reconstructed, and a cap would be placed over contaminated areas. In addition, deed notices will be recorded, and fencing will be maintained and enhanced as appropriate across the site.

- Treat contaminated groundwater. Groundwater would be treated with a combination of pumping and treating and targeted in-place treatment. Institutional controls would be used to prevent potable use of the groundwater.

Public Involvement

EPA will take public comment on its proposed plan until August 21, 2020. As part of the public comment period, EPA will hold a virtual public meeting on the proposed plan on August 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. To participate in the meeting via webinar, please visit EPA's website for more information: www.epa.gov/superfund/riverside-industrial.

To participate by telephone, please call into the conference line: (315) 565-0493, Code ID: 304001388#. Please register in advance of the meeting by visiting https://epa-riverside-proposed-plan.eventbrite.com or by emailing or calling Shereen Kandil at kandil.shereen@epa.gov or 212-637-4333. Anyone interested in receiving a hard copy of the proposed plan or the materials for the public meeting should contact Shereen Kandil by Thursday, July 30, 2020.

Verbal comments on the proposed plan may be provided during the virtual public meeting. Written comments on the proposed plan should be e-mailed or postmarked no later than August 21, 2020 to: smeraldi.josh@epa.gov or Josh Smeraldi, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10007-1866

Past Cleanup Activities

In October 2009, EPA responded to an oil spill into the Passaic River orginating from the site. EPA and NJDEP traced the source of the oil spill to two basement tanks located in a vacant building on Lot 63 (see Figure 1). EPA found several hazardous substances present in the tanks and initiated an emergency removal action to stop the discharge and secure the source. Further EPA investigation of Lots 63 and 64 led to the discovery of several underground storage tanks (USTs), aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), and various other wastes. EPA performed removal activities between 2011 and 2014 to address the conditions on Lots 63 and 64 that included removing liquids from the basements of the vacant buildings, investigating the USTs, investigating and disposing the ASTs, drums and smaller containers, and soil, groundwater, and waste sampling.

After taking those immediate actions to protect human health and the environment and performing site investigations, Riverside Industrial Park was added to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites in May 2013. In May 2014, EPA entered into a legal agreement with PPG Industries, Inc. (PPG), one of the 18 potentially responsible parties identified at the site, to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

Site Description

The 7.6-acre, partially active Riverside Industrial Park site is located in the North Ward community of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Both Riverside Avenue and McCarter Highway border the site on the west along with a segment of railroad tracks adjacent to McCarter Highway. Currently, the central and northern portions of the site contain active industrial/commercial businesses, while the southern portion of the site contains mostly vacant buildings. The Passaic River borders the site on the east. Sections of steel, concrete, and wooden bulkhead provide a retaining wall along most of the site adjacent to the Passaic River; however, the bulkhead has fallen into disrepair in some locations.

Site Background

Much of the land that houses the Riverside Industrial Park site was reclaimed from the Passaic River between 1892 and 1909 by using imported fill to raise the elevation of the land above the river. From 1902 to 1971, the property was used for paint, resins, linseed oil and varnish manufacturing by Patton Paint Company, which merged into the Paint and Varnish Division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in 1920. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company changed its name to PPG Industries, Inc. in 1968. From the 1970s to the present day, the site was subdivided into fifteen lots and the property has been used intermittently by various companies for a variety of businesses which range from chemical packaging to chemical and cosmetics manufacturing.

Figure 1: Map of lots located at the Riverside Industrial Park