Blades Groundwater Site Profile Page

Announcements and Key Topics

The U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) is announcing the proposal of the Blades Groundwater Site to the National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the sites eligible for long-term cleanup financed under the federal Superfund Program.

Join Us for a Public Meeting:

Thursday December 5, 2019
6:30pm – 7:30pm

Blades Fire Hall
200 East 5th Street
Blades, DE 19973

We Would Like to Hear from You!

EPA has opened a 60-day public comment period from November 7, 2019 to January 7, 2020. Comments can be submitted one of two ways:

Online: [HYPERLINK "http://www.regulations.gov"]
Search for "EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0484"

Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Docket ID # EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0484
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Background

The Blades Groundwater Site is located in Sussex County adjacent to the Town of Seaford. It encompasses an area approximately one mile in diameter from the Blades public wells, not extending beyond the Nanticoke River and Morgan Branch. Groundwater contamination of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) were found in eight residential wells and three public supply wells in the Nanticoke and Columbia Aquifers. PFOA and PFOS are contaminants which can cause adverse human health effects. There is ongoing, successful treatment of the Blades public water supply and residential wells to remove PFOA and PFOS from the water supply at the treatment plants. The City of Blades' drinking water

continues to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act standards, as shared annually in its water quality reports. Further investigations by EPA will work to identify the sources of the PFOA and PFOS contamination found in the groundwater.

More information about this Site and previous investigations can be found at the DNREC webpage.

Site Contacts -Amanda follow up with records center to ensure contacts are entered in SEMS

For more information on the proposed listing and [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/superfund"], please contact:

- Amanda Miles, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA Region 3 at: 215-814-5000 or 800-438-2474, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Miles.Amanda@epa.gov"]
- Connor 'O'Loughlin, Site Assessment Manager, EPA Region 3 at: 215-814-3304, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Oloughlin.Connor@epa.gov"]
- Daniel Taylor, Remedial Project Manager, EPA Region 3 at: 215-814-3326, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Taylor.Daniel@epa.gov"]
- **For media inquiries:** Roy Seneca, Office of Communications and Government Relations, U.S. EPA, Region 3 at: 215-814-5567, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Seneca.roy@epa.gov"]

For additional questions regarding the Blades Groundwater Site, please contact:

- Rick Galloway, Project Manager, DNREC Remediation Section at: 302-395-2600, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Rick.Galloway@delaware.gov"]
- Qazi Salahuddin, Program Administrator, DNREC Remediation Section at: 302-395-2600, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Qazi.Salahuddin@delaware.gov"]
- Christina Wirtz, Outreach Ombudsman, DNREC Strategic Services Section at: 302-395-2500, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Christina.Wirtz@delaware.gov"]
- **For media inquiries:** Michael Globetti, DNREC Public Affairs Office at: 302-739-9000, or by email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Michael.Globetti@delaware.gov"]

What has been done to clean up the site?

In 2018, DNREC acted to ensure that the public drinking water in the area – which is provided by the Nanticoke and Columbia Aquifers – is treated to remove contaminants and meets state and federal drinking water standards. Subsequently, DNREC requested additional assistance from EPA in 2018 to help fully investigate the area. The proposed listing will allow EPA to use Superfund authority and resources to work with DNREC to identify the sources of contamination and help resolve the groundwater concerns in the Blades area.

What is the current Site status?

The Blades Groundwater Site is currently being proposed to the National Priority List (NPL). If the site is listed on the NPL, EPA will lead the clean-up effort. The Superfund program authorizes EPA to investigate and clean up contamination. The goal of this is to clean the site to ensure protectiveness for Human Health and the Environment.

Sampling and Monitoring

The PRP conducted a site investigation under the State lead VCP program from 2010 to 2017. EPA in cooperation with DNREC performed an EPA lead Preliminary Assessment in 2017 and Site Inspection from 2017 to 2018 of areas adjacent to multiple facilities as part of an EPA lead investigations for metals and PFAS contamination. Electroplating compounds including *Fumetrol* 140 and other mist suppressants were found to have been used at two electroplating facilities.

Emergency Response and Removal

From February to August 2018, EPA, under the Removal Program, collected groundwater samples from a total of 54 domestic wells for PFAS analysis at residences primarily located outside the town limits of Blades to the west and northeast of the town's boundary; four samples were collected from domestic wells within Blades that are not supplied potable water from the town water authority. Concentrations exceeded the combined HAL of 70 ppt for PFOS and PFOA in seven of the domestic wells. DNREC provided water system filters to eight residences with private wells with PFOA/PFOS concentrations above 52.5 nanograms per liter (ng/L) (ng/L is equivalent to ppt) (75% of the HAL.

What are the risks at the site?

In 2018, DNREC acted to ensure that the public drinking water in the area – which is provided by the Nanticoke and Columbia Aquifers – is treated to remove contaminants and meets state and federal drinking water standards. There are no current risks related to drinking water in the area.

Contaminant Information

In 2018, DNREC acted to ensure that the public drinking water in the area – which is provided by the Nanticoke and Columbia Aquifers – is treated to remove contaminants and meets state and federal drinking water standards.

Public Participation opportunities (Amanda)

NPL listing and future activities:

1. 60-day public comment period, November 7- January 7, 2019
2. Public Meeting, Thursday December 5, 2019. 6:30-7:30pm at the Blades Fire Hall
3. Final decision on the NPL listing will occur in the spring of 2020.