Nuclear Metals
Concord, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM *protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.*

INTRODUCTION:

Since January 2016, the technical team has been working with EPA, MassDEP, and the Acton Water District to design and implement a test of the Assabet 1A and 2A production wells. The test was started the week of March 14. The data from the test will be used to define the "capture zone" of the Assabet wells, which will assist in determining an effective location to install and test a pumping well. Use of this well, and possibly others, will be incorporated into the full-scale design of the groundwater extraction and treatment system for the Groundwater Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) selected by EPA in September 2015 as part of the necessary remediation for the site.

NON-TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION

Winter work at the site began with preparation for building demolition. Site activities focused on the final cleaning of the inside of the buildings and removal of remaining materials. This process included High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuuming of interior surfaces and applying a spray coating to the interior surfaces, which adhered any remaining dust to prevent it from becoming airborne during demolition. All of the buildings have now been completely emptied and are ready for demolition.

In March a "sub-slab investigation" program was completed, which involved drilling holes through the concrete floor slabs, and then collecting soil samples below the buildings. This information will be used to better understand and define the scope and estimated cost for the next phase of work, the Remedial Action. During the Remedial Action phase, the building slabs and sub-slab soils will be removed.

The demolition contractor, Charter, mobilized to the site in late March 2016 to perform the final utility decommissioning and other preparations prior to building demolition. Building demolition is planned to begin in April 2016, and is expected to continue through August 2016. After demolition is complete, the building foundations will remain in place and an impermeable cap will be installed. This cap will minimize any water infiltration until the Remedial Action begins.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

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April 2016

Once building demolition activities are in full swing, up to 12 trucks will leave the site daily. Work is planned for weekdays, with truck traffic scheduled between 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, to avoid rush hours and the period when school buses are active. Trucks will transport material to a trans-load facility in Newark, NJ where the material will then be shipped by rail to the U.S. Ecology disposal facility in Mayfield, ID.

The truck route is as follows: Depart the Site (2229 Main Street) and turn left (west) onto Hwy. 62 West. Take Hwy 27 South to 495 South to points south towards Newark, NJ.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS) ACTIVITIES

Fall and Winter RI/FS activities included the installation and sampling of 25 groundwater monitoring wells to further determine the scope of the 1,4-dioxane plume associated with the site. de maximis and its subcontractor, Geosyntec, met with representatives of EPA, MassDEP and the community groups in December 2015 to discuss the investigation results and next steps. Three additional monitoring wells were installed in January 2016. Figures illustrating the locations of and monitoring data for the investigations are available here: http://www.nmisite.org/nmisite/download/Remedial%20Investigation/GW-Figures.pdf