

BLACKBURN AND UNION PRIVILEGES SUPERFUND SITE WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS FACT SHEET

Information regarding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated investigation efforts at the Blackburn and Union Privileges Superfund Site in Walpole, Massachusetts.

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Site Information

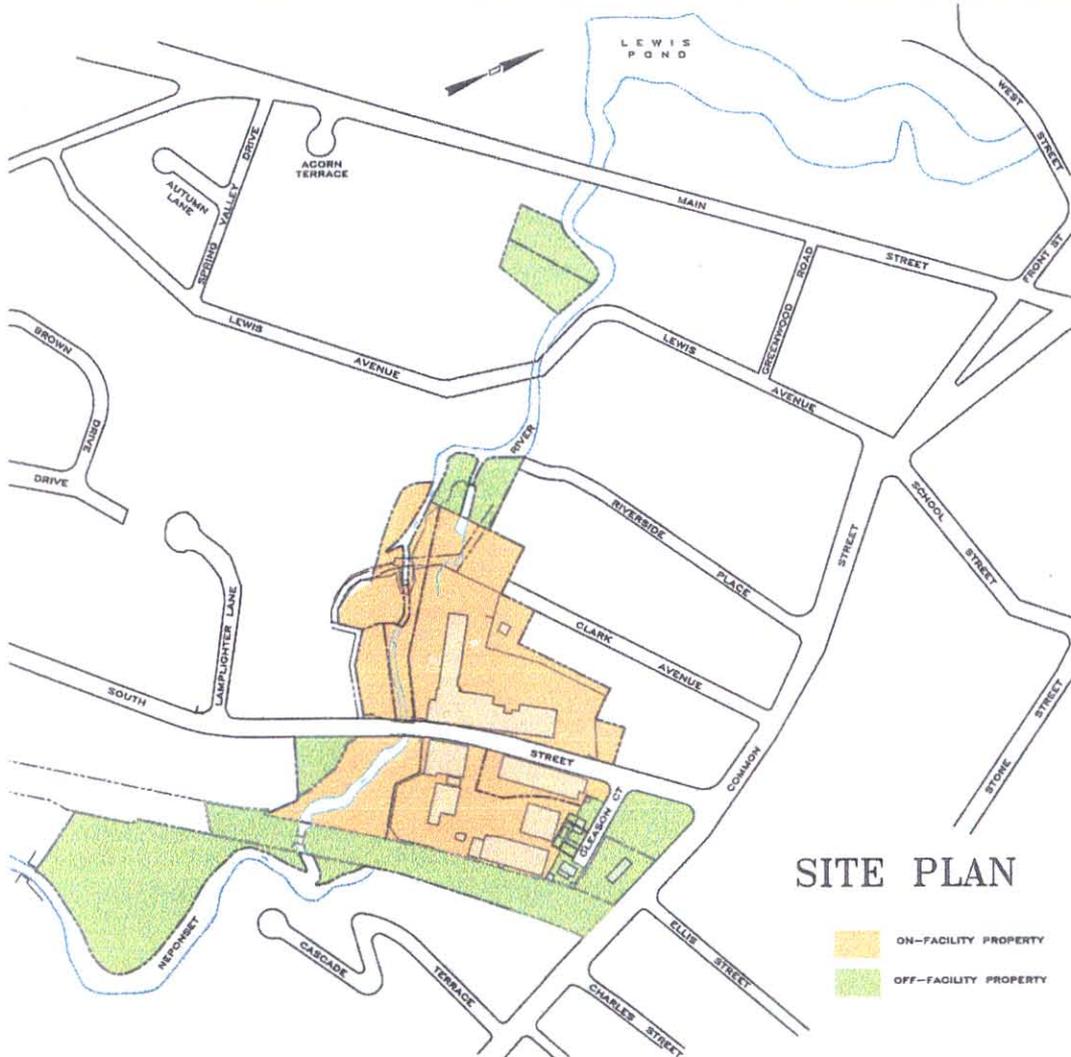
The Blackburn and Union Privileges Superfund Site (also known as the “South Street Site” or the “Shaffer Realty Trust Site”) is located approximately one-half mile from the center of Walpole, Massachusetts. It is bisected by both South Street and the Neponset River. Refer to the **Where is the Blackburn and Union Privileges Site?** inset (below) for additional information.

Portions of the Site have been the locus of various industrial activities spanning several hundred years (see **History of Industrial Portions the Site** inset on page 2). Contamination from industrial activities may remain in soil and groundwater beneath portions of the Site. The potential for Site-related impacts to areas off the Site, if any, is being investigated.

Where is the Blackburn and Union Privileges Site?

EPA has defined the Site as 21 parcels of land over an area of approximately 22 acres. The Site consists of both “On-Facility” properties – areas historically industrial – and “Off-Facility” properties – areas historically residential or undeveloped. Also included are other places where contamination has come to be located.

On- and Off-Facility properties are shown on the map, left.



SITE PLAN

ON-FACILITY PROPERTY
OFF-FACILITY PROPERTY

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In February 1992, the Site was proposed for listing as a Superfund Site on EPA's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. It was added to the Superfund program in May 1994.

◆ Prior Site Investigations

Environmental investigations were initiated at the Site in 1985, prior to becoming a Superfund Site. These investigations indicated that certain metals and organic compounds may potentially be present in site soil, sediment and groundwater as a result of industrial activities that have occurred at the Site since the 1800s. Highly alkaline conditions were also identified at certain locations, as was asbestos contaminated soil. ◆

The 1992 Asbestos Removal Action

Using its enforcement powers, in 1992, the EPA required the removal of asbestos-contaminated soils. These soils were excavated and then consolidated and capped with approximately three feet of clean soil in an area south of the old mill building located on the west side of South Street. This area is fenced and restricted by deed to protect the soil cap from disturbance. ◆

What is Happening Now?

A detailed study, the Remedial Investigation, will begin in late summer to identify the cause and extent of contamination at the Site and the possible threats to the environment and people nearby. A work plan detailing how this investigation will be carried out was approved by EPA. The majority of activities will be conducted on the industrial portions of the Site



History of Industrial Portions of The Site

In 1811, the "Blackburn Privilege" was reportedly established on the upstream portion of the Site, east of South Street, and in circa 1812 the "Union" or "Union Factory Privilege" was established on the downstream portion of the Site, west of South Street. The term "privilege" refers to a grant enabling commercial usage of the Neponset River for water supply and power.

Early in the history of the Site, the Blackburn and Union Privileges were used for saw mills, and subsequently for production of machinery, cotton yarn, cotton batting, lamp wicks, snuff, iron nails, and other similar items. From 1891 to 1915, portions of the Site both east and west of South Street were used for manufacture of rubber goods, including insulated materials and tires. Between 1915 and 1935, the Site was used for the manufacture of asbestos clutch and brake linings. The Site remained generally vacant for a time following 1935.

Beginning in approximately 1946 and continuing until approximately 1984, a cotton mercerizing operation, which included washing and later bleaching, was operated on the former Union Privilege Site. This facility is now vacant.

The industrial portion of the Site east of South Street has been used for light industry and warehousing since the late 1930s, and is currently used as a foundry.

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What is happening now? continued from pg. 2

and will continue into Spring 2001. A report explaining the findings of the Remedial Investigation will be submitted to EPA in approximately December 2001.

Planned investigation activities include:

- Obtaining approximately 155 samples of soil at depths up to about 10 feet below the ground surface to understand the subsurface geology of the Site and to determine whether contamination is present in soil;
- Installation of approximately 41 groundwater monitoring wells to provide information on hydrogeologic conditions, including groundwater flow direction and flow rate, and to determine whether contamination is present in groundwater;
- Collection of approximately 53 sediment samples from the Neponset River, former on-Site mill tail race, and Lewis Pond to determine if contamination from the Site may be present in any of these sediments; and
- Collection of approximately 28 samples of surface water from the Neponset River to provide information to determine whether Site contamination has impacted the River.

Data obtained during the investigation will be used to determine if unacceptable risks to human health and/or the environment may be posed by the presence of contamination from the Site. Following completion of the investigation, and based on its findings, a Feasibility Study will be conducted to identify

options for cleaning up the Site, where necessary.

EPA uses this information to develop and present a Proposed Plan for Long Term Cleanup to citizens and to local and state officials for comments. This plan describes the various cleanup options under consideration and identifies the option EPA prefers. The community has at least 30 days to comment and is able to discuss the plan with EPA during a public meeting.

Once the public's concerns are addressed, EPA publishes a Record of Decision, which describes how the Site will be cleaned up. A notice is also placed in the local newspaper to inform the community of the cleanup decision. ♦

Who will be involved at the Site?

The Kendall Company (Kendall, a division of Tyco Healthcare Group LP) and W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. (Grace) are the companies who entered into an Administrative Order by Consent with EPA for the performance of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Blackburn and Union Privileges Superfund Site. Current owners of a portion of the Site, the Shaffer Realty Nominee Trust and BIM Investment Corporation, are also named as potentially responsible persons (PRPs) in EPA's enforcement actions, but are not responding parties.

The Respondents have hired Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc. (SHA) of Concord, New Hampshire and Westford, Massachusetts, an environmental consulting firm, to carry out the Remedial Investigation. EPA will supervise the overall investigation. ♦

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Blackburn and Union Privileges Superfund Site Mailing List Additions, Deletions & Changes



Check here to:

- Be added to the mailing list
- Note a change of address
- Be deleted from the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send the above information to:

Ms. Melissa Taylor, Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection
Agency, Region I
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (HBO)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

For More Information...



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MADEP

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More information regarding the Site can also be
found on USEPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/sfsites/blackbrn.html>