

SUPERFUND

Centredale Manor

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.

OVERVIEW:

The Centredale Manor Restoration Project was listed on EPA's National Priorities List in February 2000. The National Priorities List (NPL) is the list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation. EPA has been coordinating with Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management and Department of Health on a comprehensive environmental cleanup for the Site. In October 2011, EPA issued a proposed cleanup plan for 1.5 miles of contamination in and along the Woonasquatucket River. This plan included the cleanup of multiple contaminants including dioxins.

Dioxins are toxic chemicals that naturally exist in the environment and can be released into the environment through forest fires, backyard burning of trash, certain industrial activities, and residue from past commercial burning of waste. EPA has identified many known sources of dioxins. Working with other federal partners, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, EPA has taken steps to address dioxin. This includes supporting research on dioxin exposure and effects; assessing dioxin human health risks; measuring dioxin levels in the environment, our diet and in our bodies; and reducing exposure to dioxin.

THE NEW SCIENCE:

EPA recently finalized a non-cancer science assessment for dioxins, which was last reviewed in the 1980s. The assessment is the latest effort in a successful, coordinated strategy by the Federal government that has reduced known and measurable air emissions of dioxins 90 percent since 1987. In order to use the best and most current science available, EPA is proposing to use the new dioxin toxicity value to revise the Centredale Manor Site human health risk assessment and cleanup levels.

EPA'S PROPOSAL:

In using the lower cleanup levels, EPA proposes to evaluate properties within the 100 year floodplain as part of the long term cleanup of the Woonasquatucket River. This process is laid out in the Proposed Plan Amendment, which will be open for public comment from July 19-August 17, 2012. There will be public meetings followed by formal public hearings held at the end of July to discuss the Amendment to the Proposed Plan. There will be a meeting and hearing on July 30th at 7pm in the Pocasset Bay Retirement Living Facility in Johnston, RI. There will be meetings and hearings on July 31st in the Centredale Manor Apartments at 3pm, and in the North Providence Town Hall at 7pm.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RESIDENTS:

EPA will take precautionary measures at properties within the 100 year floodplain along the eastern side of the site to prevent people from being exposed to the contaminants in soil. An example of a precautionary measure is to fence off the 100 year floodplain, or to spread a ground cover such as mulch.

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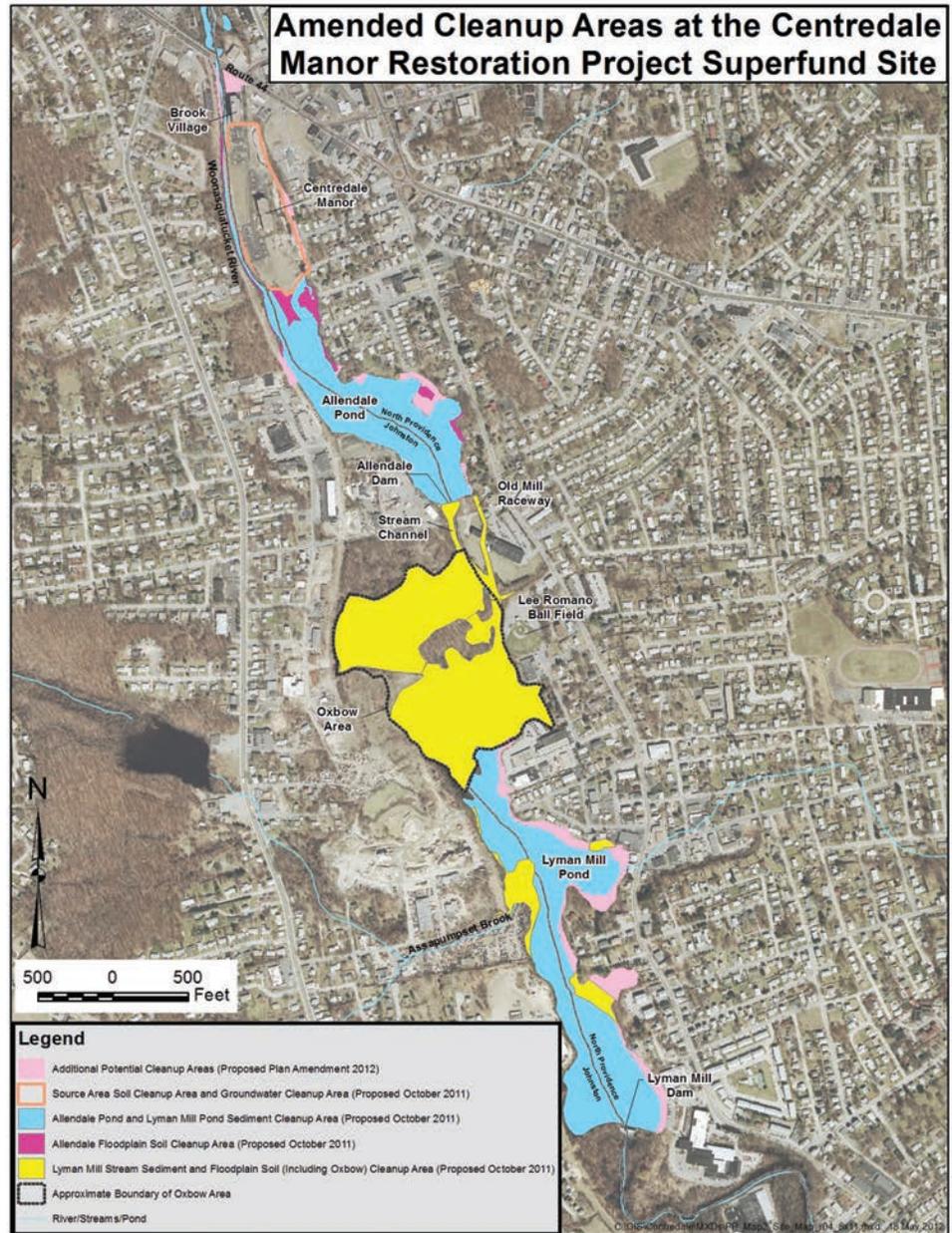
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EPA will work with property owners to select any needed precautionary measures. This will happen shortly after the long term cleanup plan is selected. We expect to select a cleanup plan in the fall 2012.

WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO:

The primary means of human exposure to dioxin from the site occurs by eating contaminated fish from the Woonasquatucket River, and ingesting, or swallowing, contaminated soil. There are specific precautionary measures residents can take to reduce the chances for potential exposure including:

- Do not eat fish from the Woonasquatucket River
- Keep your house clean of dirt and soil from outside by:
 - Taking off shoes before entering the house
 - Washing clothing used when doing yard work
- Keep yourself clean, and avoid ingesting soil by:
 - Helping children to avoid placing soiled hands or objects into their mouths
 - Washing hands with soap and water before cooking, eating, drinking or smoking
 - Washing hands with soap and water after playing or working outside



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