

Durham Meadows Community Update

EPA Superfund Division

June 2009

This community update provides you with information on the activities ongoing at the Durham Meadows Superfund site in Connecticut

Environmental Field Work Scheduled this Summer at the Former Location of Merriam Manufacturing Company

EPA will conduct additional work at and near the former location of the Merriam Manufacturing Company this summer to more fully define the nature and extent of contamination on the property. Work will consist primarily of sampling both soil and groundwater, and will supplement previous investigative work done on the property.

The selected remedy for the Merriam Manufacturing Company Study Area includes soil excavation and off-site disposal to address risks to human health from contamination in surface soil and to address source contamination at depth. In 2006, EPA collected additional surface and sub-surface soil samples at Merriam Manufacturing to more fully define the nature and extent of contamination on the property, and allow for a better design of the soil excavation component of the remedy.



The 2006 sampling results showed that most subsurface soil samples contained unexpected levels of total and leachable lead. EPA, after consultation with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), has determined that additional investigations are needed to determine whether this lead is potentially naturally occurring and if it is leaching into local groundwater, and ultimately how much of the lead may require excavation.

Beginning the week of June 15, EPA will collect surface and subsurface soil samples at nearby locations to compare to the Merriam Manufacturing area results. Collection of subsurface soil samples involves drilling into the ground, which is noisy but only lasts for short periods of time. The week of June 22, EPA will collect groundwater samples from wells located at the Merriam area.

Town residents can expect to see EPA contractor vehicles within the fenced portion of the Merriam Manufacturing property and may see EPA contractor vehicles traveling in the neighborhood. EPA expects that all field investigations will be completed by the end of June.

Additional Activities

EPA continues to work with the Durham Manufacturing Company on pre-design work for the remedy at that location. The Town of Durham is currently working with state and federal agencies, as well as local officials, regarding the design of an alternate water supply to the area. Filtering and monitoring of affected residential drinking water wells in the area continues under State order. Currently, Durham Manufacturing Company continues to perform this work at homes in its area. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is performing this work for the homes in the Merriam Manufacturing Company area.

If you have any questions about the Durham Meadows Superfund Site or would like more information, you may call or write:

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For current library hours, or assistance locating information in the repository, please call Valerie Kilmartin at 860-349-9544.