

Norwood PCBs

March 2005



Superfund Site Activity Update

What is happening at the Norwood PCBs Superfund Site?

Five Year Review Completed

EPA completed its second Five-Year Review of the Norwood PCBs Superfund Site in December 2004. A Five-Year Review evaluates the cleanup activities undertaken at a Superfund hazardous waste site every five years to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. These reviews are completed at sites where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remain onsite above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

The Five-Year Review consisted of six parts:

- Community notification
- Document search and review
- Existing data review and analysis
- Interviews
- Site inspection
- Protectiveness determination

The review concluded the cleanup actions selected for the site remain protective of human health and the environment. For long-term protection, however, land-use restrictions must be updated and instituted and regular maintenance must occur.

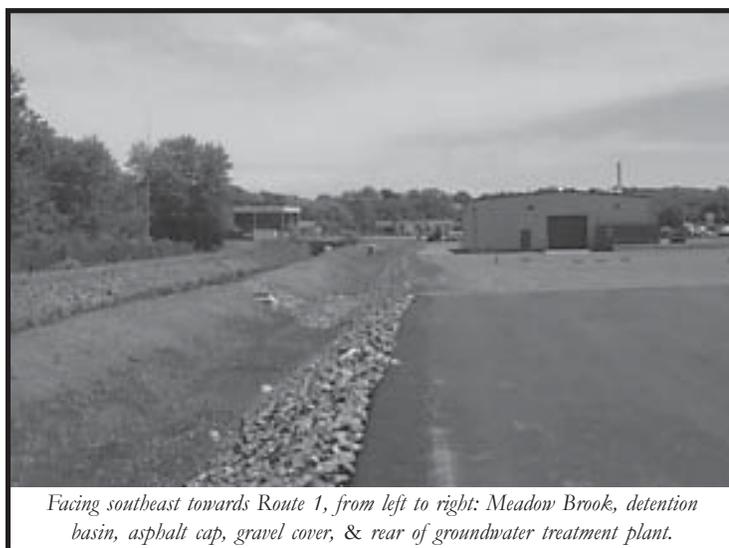
New Groundwater Cleanup Levels Adopted

EPA developed new groundwater cleanup standards for the site based on two factors. 1) The site's groundwater is not a drinking water source. 2) Additional site-specific risk assess-

ment efforts demonstrated revised groundwater cleanup levels would not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

Since the site's 1989 cleanup plan was crafted, its groundwater is no longer considered by MA De-

partment of Environmental Protection to be a drinking water source, hence cleanup standards based on drinking water are no longer appropriate. Additional risk assessment activities were conducted from 2001 to 2004 and determined the new levels are protective of human health and the environment.



Facing southeast towards Route 1, from left to right: Meadow Brook, detention basin, asphalt cap, gravel cover, & rear of groundwater treatment plant.

EPA suspended groundwater extraction and treatment in 2000 in anticipation of these new cleanup standards. Additional groundwater monitoring is planned this spring. If the results confirm the new standards are being met, EPA will begin the process of permanently decommissioning the groundwater treatment plant.

More detailed information about these modifications can be found in the *Explanation of Significant Differences for the Norwood PCB Superfund Site: February 2005*. This document is available at the Morrill Memorial Library, 33 Walpole St., Norwood, at EPA's Records Center, 1 Congress

Street, Boston, or at www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/norwood.

Potential Site Redevelopment

EPA works to cleanup the country's most hazardous waste sites in order to protect human health and the environment. EPA also strives to return sites to productive use by implementing Superfund cleanup plans that are consistent with the anticipated future use of the sites. To ensure the protection of human health and the environment, certain limitations or requirements on potential redevelopment may be put into place by EPA.

At the Norwood PCBs Superfund site, the potential for reuse was a factor in EPA's 1996 decision to amend its original cleanup plan. In order to ensure the cleanup actions remain protective of human health and the environment, EPA and MA DEP established rules for any potential redevelopment project and any activity would have to be closely coordinated with both agencies. Violation of such rules would lead to significant fines and other legal penalties. Land use restrictions for the site include:

- no day care use;
- no groundwater use;
- no interfering with or disrupting cap and cover areas containing the contaminated materials unless certain requirements are met.

The property is currently being used to store cars for local car dealerships.

Cleanup History

- 1986** □
June □ Site listed on EPA's National Priorities List of Superfund Sites.
- 1989** □
Sept. □ EPA's cleanup plan issued.
- 1996** □
Mar. □ EPA begins groundwater treatment.
May □ EPA revises cleanup plan.
Aug. □ EPA negotiates agreement requiring Settling Defendants to perform certain cleanup activities.
Oct. □ Grant Gear building demolition activities begin and were completed in February 1997 by Settling Defendants.
- 1997** □
Apr. □ Soil/sediment excavation and cap/cover cleanup activities begin and were completed in August 1998 by Settling Defendants.
July Site purchased.
Sept. □ EPA negotiates reuse rules with new property owner.
Oct. □ EPA Meadow Brook restoration activities begin and were completed in July 1999.
- 2000** □
Jun. □ EPA suspends groundwater treatment pending MADEP revised groundwater classification and new risk assessment result.
- 2001** □
May □ MADEP revises groundwater classification.
- 2001-2004** □ EPA conducts additional studies which demonstrate proposed revised groundwater cleanup levels protective.
- 2004** □ EPA approves Settling Defendants' Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- 2005** □ EPA revises groundwater cleanup levels due to revised groundwater classification and additional study results.

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The two Five Year Reviews, the *Explanation of Significant Differences*, and other information about the site is available at:
www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/
For PCB information go to: www.epa.gov/pcb