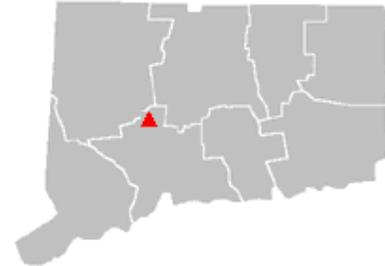


Nutmeg Valley Road Superfund Site Wolcott, Connecticut

Final Deletion of the Site from Superfund... Enhancing Opportunities for Revitalization



Background

The Nutmeg Valley Road Superfund Site (Site) is located in west-central Connecticut near the Wolcott/Waterbury town line. The Site and surrounding area is rural with mixed commercial, industrial and residential use. Industrial use of the area began in the late 1940's.

<u>Quick Facts</u>	
Location:	Off of Wolcott Road
Acreage:	28 acres
Parcels:	Eight
Current Uses:	Commercial and light industrial. Some vacant areas.
Ownership:	Multiple private owners
Zoning:	Commercial and industrial
Cleanup Status:	Deleted from NPL
Surrounding land uses:	Mixed. Primarily commercial and light industrial with some residential.

After volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were discovered in several private wells in 1979, the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) and local officials conducted investigations into the nature, extent, and probable sources of groundwater contamination in Wolcott and the surrounding area. These investigations identified additional contaminated private wells and numerous potential sources of groundwater contamination. As an interim measure, the CT DEP provided alternate water to residences whose drinking water contained contamination at levels of public health concern. With funding from the CT DEP, the Chesprocott Health District undertook a comprehensive water supply testing program in 1984 and 1985 to further delineate the contamination in private water supplies. The Town of Wolcott extended the Waterbury public water line in 1986; however, some domestic and industrial groundwater wells remained in use.

The identified groundwater contamination led to the Site being placed on the federal National Priorities List (NPL) in March 1989 and additional environmental studies by EPA. Although EPA's Remedial Investigation (RI) initially focused on two metal-working and machine shops on Nutmeg Valley Road, the study area was later expanded to 155 acres to include similar shops on Swiss Lane, Tosun Road, Wolcott Road and Town Line Road.

In 1992, EPA conducted an emergency response action at the PAR Finishing facility on Tosun Road. Approximately 1,150 tons of sludge waste and contaminated soil were removed from two unlined lagoons and shipped to an off-site disposal facility. This action addressed threats posed by the electroplating wastes in surface soils, and removed a potential source of groundwater contamination.

The study area was reduced to 28 acres when regional groundwater studies conducted in 1995 and 1998 by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concluded that, although there was sporadic contamination throughout the 155-acre area, there was no evidence of a wide-spread contamination plume. In addition, the levels of contaminants in much of the area were decreasing over time through natural degradation processes. The 28-acre study area is bounded by Wolcott Road (Route 69) to the northwest, Old Tannery Brook to the east, and its unnamed tributary to the south (See Exhibit 1).

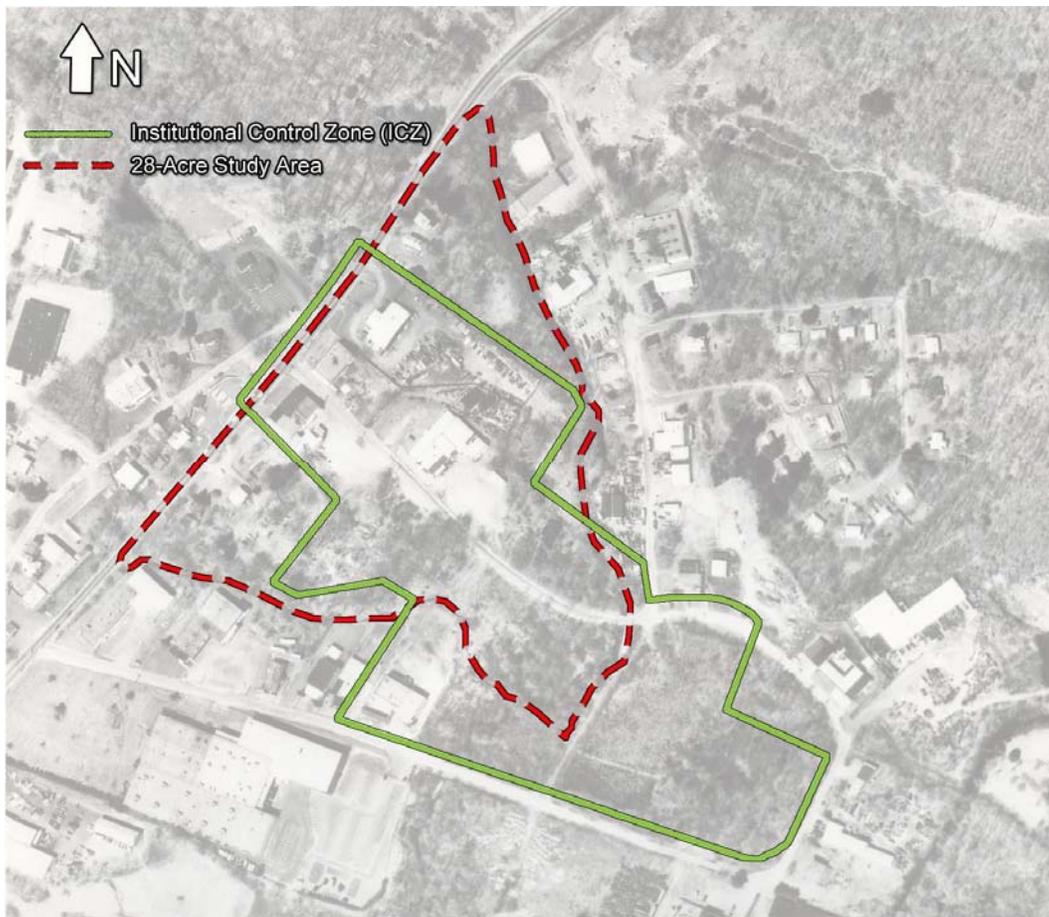


Exhibit 1 – Boundaries of the 28-acre Study Area and Institutional Control Zone

EPA investigated soils in the two suspected contamination source areas, and also surface water and sediment from Old Tannery Brook, its tributaries and their associated wetlands. These studies indicate that the levels of organic compounds and metals do not pose an unacceptable current risk to human health. However, EPA did identify a potential non-

carcinogenic health risk from the *future* use of groundwater as drinking water based upon high levels of manganese detected in groundwater.

To prevent future exposure to the contaminated groundwater, the Town of Wolcott adopted an ordinance in April 2004 prohibiting all uses of groundwater within a 25-acre Institutional Control Zone (ICZ) that substantially overlaps the 28-acre study area (See Exhibit 1). Groundwater use at the Site is further restricted by the Connecticut Public Health Code prohibiting the installation of private wells on parcels that are within 200 feet of a public water supply, including any existing water supply lines. Public water supply lines run along Nutmeg Valley Road, Town Line Road and Wolcott Road.

After a consideration of these factors, plus the fact that the State of Connecticut determined in June 2004 that the aquifer within the ICZ is “of low use and value,” EPA issued a final cleanup decision for the Site in September 2004 that no further action is required under Superfund. On September 23, 2005, the Site was deleted from the federal NPL.

Reuse Status

All of the properties at the Site are privately owned. The parcels within the ICZ are zoned either Industrial or General Commercial, and future use of the Site, including the ICZ, is expected to continue to be mostly industrial with nearby residential. Exhibit 2 shows the ICZ and zoning designations overlain on a tax parcel map.

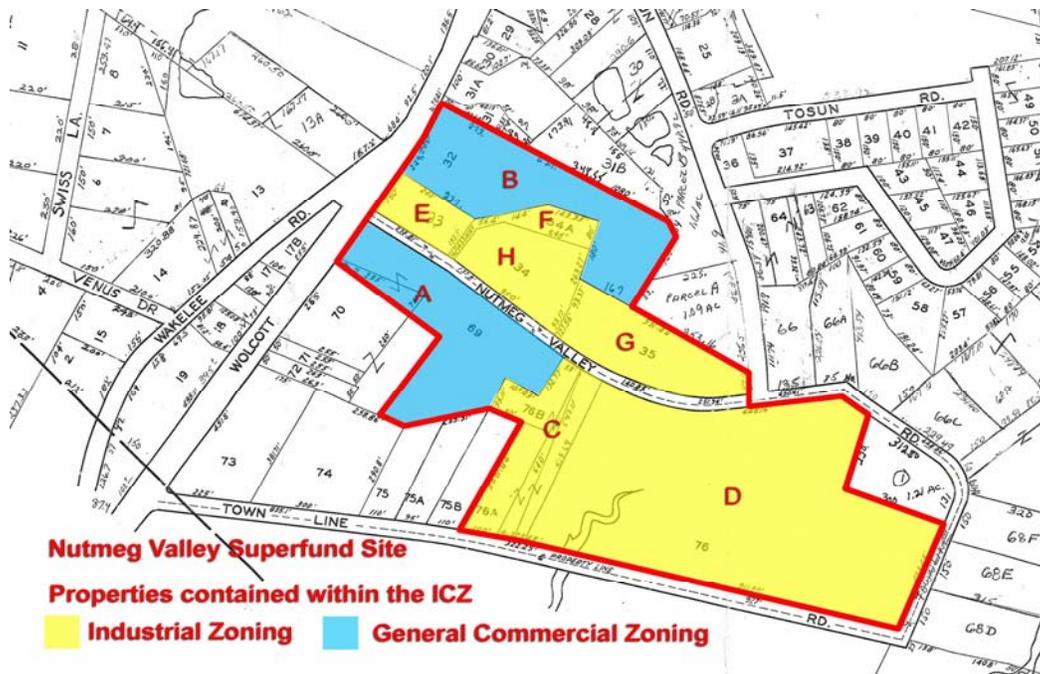


Exhibit 2- Institutional Control Zone with Tax Parcel Overlay

Properties indicated as A-C and E-H are currently occupied, or partially occupied, by repair shops and small manufacturing/light industrial facilities. Property D is vacant.

Town officials have targeted the area for revitalization efforts intended to stimulate commercial/industrial growth and increase the Town's tax base. The recent deletion of the Site from the Superfund NPL is expected to significantly contribute to that revitalization goal. In the past, property owners have reported that the stigma of being associated with a Superfund site has made it difficult to obtain financing from banks or to sell their properties.

The Superfund deletion follows EPA's September 2004 determination that no further action is necessary for known releases under the federal Superfund statute. These determinations are based on the continued use of the Site for industrial and commercial purposes, which is consistent with the current zoning. However, these properties remain subject to local and state regulations governing the use and transfer of land, such as the Connecticut Property Transfer Act.

Site Description

The Site is comprised of one vacant parcel and seven commercially-developed parcels that are interspersed with wooded areas. The adjacent and immediately surrounding areas are similarly developed, but with some residential areas mixed in with the industrial and commercial use. Several streams and wetland areas are located in the central and southeast portions (primarily Properties C, D and G).

Primary road access to the general Site locale is by way of Route 69 (Wolcott Road), but several other roads, each connecting with Route 69, provide additional access to perimeter and interior parcels. Public utilities (i.e., electric, potable water and sewer) are available. The Town of Wolcott is currently seeking money from the State of Connecticut for improvements to the area, including road repairs, possible extension of the public water supply line, and debris collection.

Environmental Summary

As described previously, EPA's Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) has primarily focused on the 28-acre study area. Two metal-working and machine shops on Nutmeg Valley Road with a known history of dumping waste oil and solvents onto the ground (Nutmeg Screw and Waterbury Heat Treating) were identified as potential source

<u>Key Events</u>	
1979-1981	State and local officials conduct initial investigations
1988	Town of Wolcott extends public water line
1989	Site is listed on the NPL
1992	EPA conducts a emergency response action at PAR Finishing
1995 and 1998	USGS performs regional groundwater studies
1999	EPA targets the 28-study area for further investigation
April 2004	Town of Wolcott adopts groundwater ordinance
June 2004	CT DEP classifies the ICZ as "low use and value"
September 2004	EPA issues final cleanup decision
September 2005	Site is deleted from the federal NPL

areas for the groundwater plume within the study area. Sampling of these properties found isolated occurrences of semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), including polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and four metals (arsenic, copper, lead and zinc) at elevated levels. However, there was no obvious distribution pattern or clustering of contamination on either of the two properties that is indicative of a major source of contamination. Rather, the distribution closely resembled patterns found at background locations and is more likely the result of vehicle maintenance and/or small spills of material that are not uncommon in an industrialized area. EPA also studied the underlying groundwater, as well as the nearby Old Tannery Brook, its tributaries and associated wetlands.

The risk assessment developed for the 28-acre study area found that only one contaminant of concern presented a significant potential health hazard—manganese in groundwater, if the groundwater is used as drinking water. Though manganese is a naturally-occurring mineral and low levels are essential to a healthy diet, high levels can negatively impact the central nervous system, especially in children. The risk assessment was based on the assumption that the use of the Site properties would remain commercial and industrial.

The risk assessment studies also concluded that ecological risks in the study area were the same as, or less than, the risks found in upstream locations. This indicates that whatever contamination was detected in the surface water and sediment is due to upstream influences or activities not attributed to the Site.

In reaching its September 2004 determination that no further action is required under Superfund, EPA concluded that in order for the Site to remain protective of human health and the environment, the following institutional controls must be followed:

1. Connecticut Public Health Code (Section 19-12-B5m) prevents the future installation of private wells on parcels that are within 200 feet of a public water supply.
2. Town of Wolcott Groundwater Ordinance #87 prohibits the extraction, consumption, or utilization of groundwater from land located within the ICZ. The ordinance requires that all landowners within the ICZ must formally abandon all existing groundwater wells and connect to the public water supply system within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance. [Note: In a letter dated July 12, 2005, Thomas G. Dunn, the Mayor of Wolcott, certified that all affected property owners have abandoned the groundwater wells on their properties and have connected to the public water supply.]

Another important consideration in EPA's September 2004 determination was the CT DEP's assessment in June 2004 that the groundwater in the 28-acre study area has "low use and value." As a result, EPA no longer believes that returning the underlying groundwater to drinking water standards is an appropriate goal for the Superfund cleanup.

To ensure that the required institutional controls continue to prevent human exposure to contaminated groundwater, every five years EPA will review these legal mechanisms to confirm that they remain in place and are functioning as intended. The first of these so called “Five Year Reviews” will be conducted in 2009.

Finally, it should be emphasized that the properties remain subject to other existing and future local, state and federal requirements regardless of the deletion of this Site from the NPL (For example, the National Die Co, Inc. property, identified as Property A on Exhibit 2, is currently undergoing a polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)-related cleanup under the federal Toxic Substances and Control Act).

For Additional Information

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