

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS #2 Raymark Superfund Site, Stratford, CT

February, 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

1. Has the town of Stratford at any time sought assistance from the federal delegation?

EPA is aware that from the beginning of the Raymark cleanup in Stratford, the various town managers, followed by the mayor, have maintained regular dialogue with members of the Congressional delegation. EPA, however, is not the appropriate agency to answer a question concerning communications between the town and elected officials.

EPA has provided assistance to the town from the beginning of EPA's involvement in the remediation of Raymark waste in Stratford. EPA provided financial assistance to the Stratford Department of Health to hire health experts during various segments of the project. EPA significantly aided in the creation of the Raymark Advisory Committee by the Stratford Town Council and financially supported the RAC's efforts and its consultants throughout the project's progress. This assistance related to the RAC has been paid for out of the Raymark special account to support the communication between EPA, CTDEP, the town of Stratford and Stratford citizens.

2. Has the state of Connecticut ever been a recipient of any funds for use at Superfund sites in the state of Connecticut?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency does not provide states with funding to cleanup Superfund sites, like Raymark, that are on the federal National Priorities List. EPA does provide Superfund related financial assistance to the states, in the form of core assistance grants, multi-site cooperative agreements (MSCA), or pre-remedial cooperative agreements. The core assistance grants are for non-site specific program activities for example, administrative support, data management, training and travel. Activities typically funded under the MSCA include state personnel costs to attend meetings, review documents or conduct environmental sampling for site specific activities at National Priorities List sites. The pre-remedial cooperative agreement includes funding (among other things) for site assessment activities relating to potential listing on the National Priorities List.

3. Was the OU1 cap ever compromised by the development thereon?

The cap at OU1 has never been compromised and continues to function as expected. This question about cap integrity appears to have arisen from a violation of a deed restriction that was imposed by the state of Connecticut on the current property owner. This deed restriction, (called an Environmental Land Use Restriction or "ELUR") requires written authorization from the CTDEP and EPA prior to any excavations greater than 18 inches below ground level within the property boundary of OU1. The particular violation involved digging in the restricted area before the receipt of written authorization from the state and EPA. While this digging was a violation of the ELUR, the excavation was not deep enough to result in any damage to the cap.

In addition, last year a subcontractor for a local utility company damaged a sump pump control cable that was outside of the capped area. Normal on-site treatment continued as the sump pumps were manually operated until the cable was replaced. There was, however, no impact to the cap from this issue.

4. What was the total number of homes identified as having Raymark waste within the town of Stratford?

As of 1995 a total of 46 residential properties in the town of Stratford had been identified as containing Raymark waste in soil. EPA conducted cleanup actions at all 46 properties. Since then, following an extensive document review and sampling effort over a ten year period, one additional residential property has been identified as containing Raymark waste in soil. This residential property is now part of Operable Unit 6 - Additional Properties.

5. Are there any homes in the town of Stratford that have been identified as having Raymark waste that are not identified as part of the superfund site? If yes where? Is there a list somewhere? The website does not allow a query for such a list.

All residential homes that have been identified as containing Raymark waste in soil are part of the Superfund site. EPA has conducted response actions at the 46 residential homes, as described above in the answer to question number 4.

6. Has any feasibility study been conducted that takes in the entire plan for complete remediation regardless of the cost?

The feasibility study that is currently under discussion involves 24 residential, commercial, state, and municipal properties impacted by waste in soil from the former Raymark Facility. This is the Feasibility Study for Operable Unit 6 (OU6). EPA released a draft feasibility study report that details all of the potential cleanup options (including cost information and estimates) currently under consideration. (Please refer to the following link for the draft feasibility study: www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/raymark/275032.pdf.) These cleanup options include no action, placing individual caps over all properties, excavation of Raymark waste, or potentially combinations thereof. Excavation is further evaluated together with either transport of the Raymark waste to secure in-town consolidation locations or to secure out-of-town disposal locations.

As part of the OU6 Feasibility Study, EPA will also be including focused feasibility studies for OU3, (Ferry Creek (Area II)), OU4 (the Raybestos Memorial Field), and OU9 (Stratford Landfill and Short Beach Park). EPA intends to issue a cleanup plan for public comment that is as comprehensive as possible.

7. Has any study been done as a single source document regarding this site?

Given the broad geographic extent of the site and the multiple cleanup actions conducted over multiple years, a single document could not effectively present all of the information regarding the site. However, EPA's website (www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/raymark) provides in one location a general summary of all the investigations and cleanup work completed at Raymark over the years along with site history, photos, maps, newsletters and multiple reports and studies.

EPA has also placed copies of Raymark documents both at the Stratford Health Department as well as in the Stratford Public Library.