

Scovill Industrial Landfill Waterbury, CT

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.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Located north of Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT, the former Scovill Industrial Landfill was used by the Scovill Manufacturing Company from 1919 until the mid-1970s for disposal of ash, cinder, and other wastes. Roughly 23 of the site's 30 acres have been developed with residential structures and small commercial buildings. EPA has completed a detailed study, the Remedial Investigation, which has defined the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The study was conducted in 3 phases and the final Remedial Investigation Report will be published in the summer of 2011.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES:

The Remedial Investigation included the collection and evaluation of:

- Surface Soil Samples: in total 232 samples were taken from 0-3 inches below the ground surface;
- Subsurface Soil Samples: in total 235 soil borings or holes were drilled from 4 inches to 20 feet deep or to below the bottom of the waste, whichever was lowest;
- Groundwater Samples: in total 166 samples from 23 monitoring wells were taken. To better define contaminants which easily evaporate in groundwater, an additional 22 samples outside of the monitoring wells were taken;
- Surface Water and Sediment Samples: in total 10 surface water samples and 17 sediment samples were taken in the wetlands; and,
- Historic research to fully understand the extent of disposal practices at the site.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION RESULTS:

Site Boundary

As a part of the Remedial Investigation, a significant effort was made to accurately define the boundary of the Scovill Industrial Landfill Superfund Site (see map). By looking closely at historical aerial photography, analyzing extensive environmental site data, and gathering information from site inspections, EPA determined that the area of land that is impacted by the landfill is less than what was previously believed.

Soil Contaminants

The investigation confirmed that the most frequently detected contaminants in soil are PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), metals, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). It also confirmed that the site is not an immediate public health risk in its current condition because direct contact with landfill waste materials is unlikely as most of the soil contamination is present below the ground surface or is covered by asphalt or buildings.

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LEARN MORE AT:
www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/scovill

Groundwater Contamination

The same contaminants found in soil were also detected in the site groundwater. A few groundwater contaminants, including some that are volatile (that is, they evaporate easily), some PAHs and metals were detected at slightly elevated levels at several locations. The groundwater is not used for drinking water; therefore the contaminants do not pose a risk from ingestion or skin contact. Because some of the groundwater contaminants are volatile, it is possible - although not likely in this situation - that the contaminants could seep into indoor spaces through cracks in basements, foundations, sewer lines or other structural openings and build up in indoor spaces.

NEXT STEPS

The Superfund process, conducted in several steps over multiple years, leads to the ultimate goal of protecting the health of the people living and working on the Scovill Industrial Landfill and the site's environment. The information from the Remedial Investigation is being used to complete the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments which will present potential risks to

human health and the environment due to the site's contaminants. The Remedial Investigation is also being used to develop a Feasibility Study which will identify a range of cleanup approaches to address site contamination and, like the risk assessment reports, should be finalized this summer. From the Feasibility Study, EPA will craft a Proposed Plan which will include the Agency's preferred cleanup approach as well as other alternatives. The public will be invited to comment on the Proposed Plan and the preferred alternative during what is typically a 30-day comment period. Once the comment period closes, EPA will consider the received public comments in making its cleanup decision. The cleanup plan ultimately selected is formalized in a Record of Decision and includes a Responsiveness Summary which reflects the public input and the Agency's response.

ASSISTANCE

EPA values your input. To help communities make informed decisions, EPA can award Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 per site. These TAGs enable communities to hire an independent expert to help them understand

EXPOSURE

Exposure can occur when people eat, drink, breathe or have direct skin contact with landfill waste material. At present, much of the Scovill Landfill material is covered either with a building, paved road, parking lot, or grass.

The site does not present an immediate public health risk, in its current condition, because direct contact with landfill waste materials is unlikely. Digging, gardening or other activities that might expose landfill material should not occur.

technical data and site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that are being used. Your community group may be eligible for a TAG. Contact Robert Shewack for more information at 1-888-372-7341, extension 81428. EPA strongly encourages communities to use this resource.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

- Spring 1998 CT Dept. of Environmental Protection removed 2,300 tons of PCB-contaminated soil and an additional 18 capacitors. Temporarily capped area; fenced and posted four acres.
- April 1999 EPA took soil samples 0 to 24 inches deep from 57 locations —found elevated levels of organic chemicals; metals such as cadmium, nickel, silver, and zinc; and PCBs. Indoor air sampling in limited number of homes did not detect contamination.
- August 2000 Added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL - is a list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for Federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program).
- Sept. 2002 Phase I of the Remedial Investigation began.
- June 2003 Phase I Remedial Investigation results available publicly.
- March 2004 EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Order requiring Saltire Industrial, Mr. Calabrese, Calabrese Construction Co. and Store Ave. Assoc. to conduct the Remedial Investigation.
- Summer 2004 Saltire started Phase II of the Remedial Investigation and then filed for bankruptcy.
- February 2005 EPA files a bankruptcy claim against Saltire.
- March 2006 EPA reached settlement with bankruptcy estate.
- Jan. 2008 EPA removes Saltire abandoned drums containing water and soil from sampling activities and discarded protective clothing used during field work.
- Sept.-Dec. 2008 Phase III Remedial Investigation field activities occur.
- Dec. 2008-Oct. 2010 Groundwater monitored quarterly.
- August 2009 EPA receives its distribution from the Saltire bankruptcy estate.
- July & Nov. 2010 Additional groundwater samples taken to evaluate potential of volatile contaminants to build up indoors.



APPROXIMATE SCALE
 0 50 100 200
 Feet

— Modern Roads
 — Assessor's Parcel Boundaries

□ Site Boundary

Scovill Industrial Landfill
 Superfund Site
 Waterbury, CT



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SUPERFUND

Important update