
EPA Ends Cleanup at Former Power Plant Facility

Former Calumet & Hecla Power Plant Site

Lake Linden, Michigan

October 2014

For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the cleanup at the former Calumet & Hecla power plant site, contact one of these EPA team members:

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To see more details, including site-related documents, visit:

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/chpowerplant/index.html.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to complete an extensive cleanup late this month at a former power plant on the shores of Torch Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Honeywell Specialty Materials LLC performed the cleanup under EPA oversight. The cleanup of the former Calumet & Hecla power plant site began in mid-October 2011.

During the project, workers removed asbestos-containing materials from structures. They also removed contaminated soil, water and sediment, and covered most of the site with clean material and vegetation.

Work site safety

Safety was a priority during cleanup of the 14-acre property. Control and decontamination areas were set up for workers, materials and equipment leaving the area. In addition, air monitoring was conducted at all times to ensure workers and residents were protected from air pollution.



The former Power Plant basement foundation after cleaning and capping operations (October 2014).

Site background

The property was once a large industrial complex where rock from nearby copper mines was crushed or “stamped.” This work began sometime in the early 1870s. The power plant was built in 1905 and expanded over the next 25 years. C&H stopped operations in 1968.

The site is on Highway M-26 in Houghton County, just south of the village of Lake Linden near homes and businesses. There are recreational areas to the north and south of the location. Although some of the site is bermed, a walking trail along Torch Lake goes through the property.

Both EPA and Honeywell—one of the parties responsible for the contamination—identified asbestos, PCBs and heavy metals as the contaminants of concern. People who came into direct contact with these materials were at risk.

Work completed

Workers demolished the power plant building and cleaned the stamp mill foundations in August 2013. Workers also removed a total of 18,699 tons of soil, sediment and debris contaminated with asbestos, PCBs and heavy metals. These areas were then covered with clean material.

Over most of the site, less-contaminated material was left in place and also covered with clean material.

The property will be planted with grass seed and monitored for erosion.

There is no longer a risk of coming into direct contact with asbestos, PCBs and heavy metals. However, some contaminated material was left on-site below a protective cap, so a property deed restriction is in place to limit future land use.



The stamp mill foundation after cleaning and capping operations (October 2014).