

JANUARY 2021



Making Decisions and Making a Difference in Superfund

Administrator's Emphasis List 2017-2021



MAKING DECISIONS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SUPERFUND ADMINISTRATOR'S EMPHASIS LIST 2017-2021

Following a key recommendation of the Superfund Task Force, EPA released the initial Administrator's Emphasis List in December 2017. It identified 21 sites from across the United States targeted for immediate and intense attention. The Superfund site remedial process is a multi-step process that can be delayed, sometimes for years, for any number of reasons. In developing this list, EPA considered sites that could benefit from the Administrator's direct engagement and that had identifiable actions to protect human health and the environment that were yet to be completed. These sites required timely resolution of specific issues to expedite cleanup and redevelopment efforts. The Administrator's Emphasis List identified site-specific milestones covering a broad spectrum of issues at sites across the United States. Milestones covered National Priorities List listing, remedy selection, investigations and settlement agreements. The list was designed to be dynamic and to spur action at sites where opportunities exist to act quickly and comprehensively. The resolution of an issue at a particular site can often provide information and insight into how to resolve similar issues at other sites and thus, provide lessons learned that can be applied broadly to the Superfund program.

Significant progress has been made at each of the sites because of this special emphasis. Information on the Administrator's Emphasis List can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-sites-targeted-immediate-intense-action>.

Since the creation of the Administrator's Emphasis List in 2017, EPA has achieved critical milestones at 28 sites that have moved site cleanups forward.

This document provides a summary of the sites included on the Administrator's Emphasis List since its inception. It identifies each site's milestones and the progress that has been made to date. As contemplated by the Superfund Task Force Administrator's Emphasis List has been recognized by communities, responsible parties and the Regions as a very effective tool in facilitating decisions and other actions at sites to accelerate cleanups that protect human health and the environment and provide opportunities to be returned to communities for their next use.

REGION 1

Centredale Manor, Rhode Island



Installing the cap liner on the source area at the Centredale Manor site.

Following years of litigation, the United States, Rhode Island, and Emhart Industries, Inc. and Black and Decker Inc. (collectively "Emhart") reached a mediated settlement agreement in July 2018. Emhart agreed to perform the 2012 Record of Decision pursuant to a Consent Decree, which was entered by the District Court for the District of Rhode Island on April 8, 2019. Emhart will clean up the site in phases, from upstream to downstream, and will construct a permanent cap in the source area and excavate and remove contaminated floodplain soil and sediment from the river. The entire project is expected to take 5-6 years and will be performed under EPA and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management oversight.

Emhart began the remedial design in 2018 and has been conducting remedial work. The potentially responsible parties' contractor has completed most of the Source Area (Operable Unit 1) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act C caps and installed MatCon on the paved areas and is doing final grading and installing landscaping areas and finishing up sidewalks. Design for the Allendale Pond (Operable Unit 2) has been approved and EPA continues to work with the parties to implement the cleanup.

Olin Chemical, Massachusetts

For over 10 years the responsible parties, under EPA oversight, had worked on a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study delaying implementation of final cleanup. Placing the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List signaled to the parties that it was time to finalize the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, propose a cleanup plan to remediate soil, surface water, and areas of highest groundwater contamination and issue for public comment, and move the cleanup forward. With the study now completed, EPA released a Proposed Plan for the \$48 million cleanup in August 2020 and expects to select the remedy in 2021, after considering public comment. Selecting the remedy will begin the process to negotiate and secure an agreement with Olin to design and implement the cleanup.



Historic photo of the Olin facility.

Mohawk Tannery, New Hampshire

The Mohawk Tannery site was both in need of a permanent cleanup and ripe for redevelopment, it was added to the initial Administrator's Emphasis List in 2017. This was done to spur an expedited cleanup and unleash the site's redevelopment potential. As a result, EPA engaged in discussions with multiple parties, including the State of New Hampshire, the City of Nashua, and an interested developer, to see if



Former Mohawk Tannery Building Area

an agreement could be reached to allow the site to be cleaned up more rapidly and redeveloped for residential use. Further, it would save taxpayer money by EPA sharing cleanup costs with the developer. A Non-Time Critical Action Memorandum to address the contamination at the site was issued in 2019 and negotiations began with the developer on a Bonafide Prospective Purchaser Agreement. In December 2020 the BFPP Agreement was signed, paving the way for work to begin on rapidly addressing contamination at the site and returning this area back to productive use.

REGION 2

American Cyanamid, New Jersey

The 2012 site-wide remedy did not include two on-site impoundments, due to the unique and highly complex nature of their contaminants and their proximity to the Raritan River. This site was placed on the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite the release of the Proposed Plan for Operable Unit 8 to address these two impoundments that contain acid tar waste and select a remedy for the final areas of the Site. The remedy signed in September 2018 includes excavation and destruction of material contained within the two impoundments, solidification/stabilization of any residual materials found to have been impacted by the acid tar waste, and the placement of a protective cover over the entire area addressed. The remedial design of the 2018 remedy is currently being performed by the potentially responsible parties with EPA oversight, under an Administrator Order on Consent. A demonstration project in support of the remedial design began in July 2020 and the remedial design is expected to be completed in 2021. The potentially responsible party has entered into negotiations with EPA for an agreement to implement the remedy.



Demonstration project at the American Cyanamid site in New Jersey.

Arsenic Mine, New York

On June 3, 2019, EPA proposed the site to the National Priorities List after the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry issued a public health advisory recommending that EPA take immediate short- and long-term measures to dissociate residents, especially children, from exposure to arsenic in shallow soil at the site. The site was added to the Administrator's Emphasis List in July 2019 to prioritize reviewing public comments received on the National Priorities List listing proposal and make a final listing determination. The site was added to the National Priorities List in November 2019. A Focused Feasibility Study and a Proposed Plan identifying the alternatives considered for the dissociation of residents were released for public comment in April 2020. On June 29, 2020, EPA selected an early action that includes offering to purchase certain contaminated properties and permanently relocating affected residents who accept EPA's offer. Following permanent relocation, the vacated structures will be demolished. The remedy also includes institutional controls (e.g., easements) to limit current and future use of the properties. Until the residents from each affected residence are permanently relocated, or until a final remedy is completed, periodic inspections and maintenance of



Arsenic Mine Entrance

the existing protective measures, as necessary, will be performed at each occupied residence to ensure the effectiveness of these measures in eliminating exposure pathways in the areas where these measures were installed. The Inter Agency Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for the acquisition of properties, relocation of residents, and demolition of the vacated structures was executed in late September 2020.

Berry's Creek (Ventron/Velsicol), New Jersey

Berry's Creek Study Area, part of the Ventron/Velsicol Superfund site was included on the original Administrator's Emphasis List. Specifically, the site was added to expedite the release of the cleanup



Berry's Creek Study Area

plan after eight years of investigations and studies – an important step in addressing serious contamination at the site. The areas covered by the cleanup address a major portion of the contamination within Berry's Creek, which act as a source of contamination to the other areas of the site, as well as to wildlife. Berry's Creek is a tributary to the Hackensack River. The remedy was finalized in September 2018. The remedial design is on-going and is expected to take 2-3 years to complete. Advancing work at the heavily contaminated Berry's Creek Study Area is a large step towards addressing the broader contamination throughout the Meadowlands and Hackensack River. The cleanup will be studied for its effectiveness, and a final cleanup decision will be selected in the future.

Diamond Alkali Co. (aka Upper Lower Passaic River), New Jersey

The site was placed on the Administrator’s Emphasis List with the goal of finalizing the Remedial Investigation for the 17-mile Lower Passaic River Study Area. EPA approved the Remedial Investigation in June 2019, advancing the process towards a cleanup and it was removed from the list. Since then, the potentially responsible parties have been finalizing a Feasibility Study to evaluate potential early/interim cleanup actions for the upper nine miles of the 17-mile Lower Passaic River Study Area. As a result of this work, EPA expects to issue for public comment the Proposed Plan for an early/interim action in February 2021.



The Passaic River Study Area

Universal Oil Products, New Jersey



Universal Oil Products Site

EPA included this site on the Administrator’s Emphasis List to expedite the release of a proposed cleanup plan to address the contaminated waterways and creeks, the remaining portion of the site to be addressed. The Record of Decision was signed in August 2019 and an agreement with the potentially responsible parties to perform the remedial design became effective in May 2020. Implementing this cleanup continues the progress to address contamination at this site, which

impacts the broader New Jersey Meadowlands. The design is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete.

REGION 3

L.A. Clarke & Son, Virginia

The L.A. Clarke & Son site initially was added to the Administrator's Emphasis List to spur the resolution of several disputes with the potentially responsible parties so that cleanup work could continue. Although the disputes were resolved the site remained on the Administrator's list to further ensure that critical actions supporting the cleanup would be completed in a timely manner. These actions included

completing and issuing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for public comment for a Non-Time Critical Removal Action to address creosote source material, and to finalize revising the Human Health and Final Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment to support a final groundwater remedy. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis was issued in February 2020 and the implementation plan for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action was approved by EPA. A draft preliminary design to



[Landfarming surface soil to degrade contaminants at the LA Clarke & Son site.](#)

implement the removal action is under review by EPA. The design is expected to be completed in Spring/Summer 2021. The draft Human Health Risk Assessment has been partially reviewed and approved by EPA and the remaining portion of the assessment has been submitted and is currently under review.

Delaware Sand and Gravel, Delaware

The 27-acre Delaware Sand and Gravel Landfill Superfund Site accepted municipal and industrial waste from 1968 to 1976. The waste contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous substances. In 2017, 34 years after being placed on the National Priorities List, EPA issued a second amendment to the Record of Decision to address the source material and groundwater contamination. The site was placed on the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite a settlement agreement for implementation of the second Record of Decision Amendment. Placing the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List effectively secured a timely settlement with the



Left: Vegetated landfill cap at the Delaware Sand and Gravel site.

Right: Praying mantis egg cases thriving on the vegetated landfill.



potentially responsible parties to initiate pre-design work and installation of two groundwater interceptor wells to protect water supply wells. An administrative order on consent for remedial design was executed on May 22, 2018. EPA is currently negotiating with the parties an agreement for the implementation of the Record of Decision Amendment No. 2, expected to be achieved in 2021.

Sauer Dump, Maryland

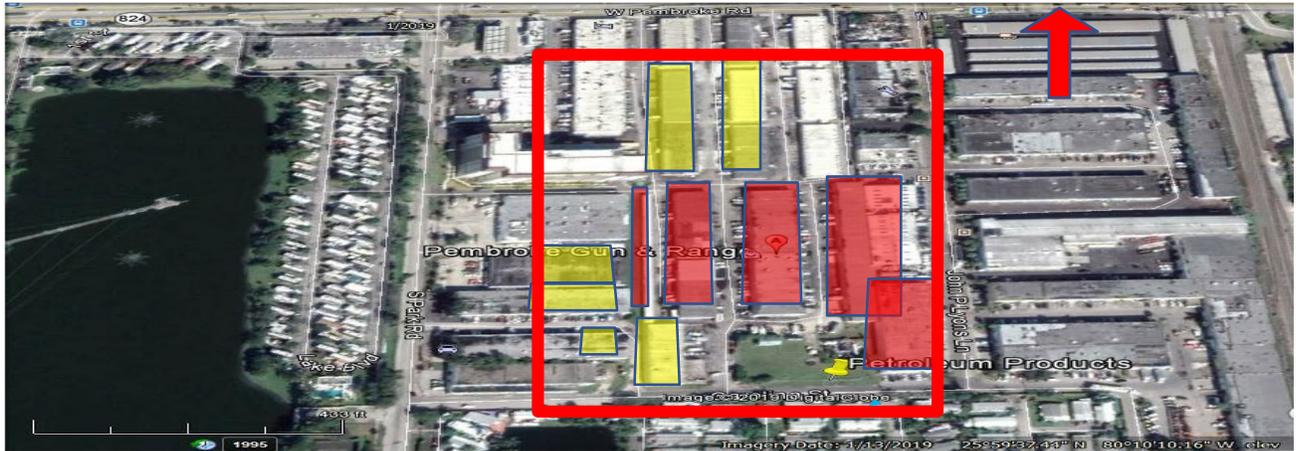
EPA has been working with the potentially responsible parties for the last 7 years to complete a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to support selecting a remedy. EPA recently added this site to the Administrator's Emphasis List to support obtaining from the potentially responsible parties high quality key submittals for the completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study in a timely manner, a significant step towards site cleanup.



Hot spot covered with heavy duty tarps during the Sauer Dump site inspection in November 2020.

REGION 4

Petroleum Products Corporation, Florida



Petroleum Products Corporation Site Map

Since listing the Petroleum Products site on the National Priorities List in 1987, several investigations and response actions have been performed to address subsurface waste oil, soil and groundwater contamination. Remedial work conducted over the past 26 years removed over 43,000 gallons of free product but has been unable to address a substantial amount of the source of contamination that sits above and threatens a federally designated sole source aquifer. Projected to be one of the largest commercial relocations under Superfund and given its estimated cost of over \$57 million, the Petroleum Products Corporation site was included on the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite the development and selection of a comprehensive permanent remedy, thereby facilitating redevelopment of the property. The EPA released the Proposed Plan for public comment in January 2021.



Source material at the Petroleum Products site.

Mississippi Phosphates Corporation, Mississippi



Areal view of Mississippi Phosphates Corporation site.

Prior to listing the Mississippi Phosphates Corporation site on the Administrator’s Emphasis List, EPA conducted wastewater operations at the Site that managed and treated wastewater at a rate of approximately 2,000,000 gallons per day—at a cost of approximately \$1 million per month. The Site was placed on the Administrator’s Emphasis List to expedite permanent closure of the East Gypsum Stack and allow field work to eliminate on site storage of contaminated water and reduce the volume of water requiring treatment. The Site was removed from the Administrator’s Emphasis List in August 2018 after the EPA Administrator signed the Non-Time Critical Removal Action Memo. Since then, EPA has completed significant work to close the East Gypsum Stack. Closure of the East Gypsum Stack is being conducted in five phases (Phase 1A, 1B, 1C, Phase 2 and Phase 3). Work on the West Slope (Phase 1A) and the South Slope (1B) has been completed. Design work on the Northeast Slope (Phase 1C), Pond 6 (Phase 2) and the North Ponds (Phase 3) has been completed.

EPA is currently conducting an accelerated assessment of available options for future treatment of leachate at the site and developing a long-term strategy for the site.

B.F. Goodrich, Kentucky

The site is an operating facility, which added a level of complexity to the evaluation of the remedial approaches. After almost a decade of site characterization and technical evaluation of cleanup approaches, the



Aerial view of the B.F. Goodrich site.

Site was placed on the Administrator's Emphasis List to complete the technical analysis and select a site cleanup. The Administrator's involvement expedited discussions with the involved parties regarding the remedial approach. These discussions resulted in an interim approach for the offshore source material that prioritizes treatment and minimizes disruption to the facility operations. This ultimately led to revising and reissuing the cleanup plan for public comment in June 2018. On September 5, 2018, the EPA Administrator signed a cleanup decision for the Site. Building on the collaborative approach taken to meet the milestone, EPA reached an agreement with the potentially responsible parties in April 2019 to begin designing the remedy while the negotiations continue for the implementation of the more than \$100 million cleanup. After signing the BF Goodrich Record of Decision in September 2018 and entering into an Administrative Settlement Agreement with the potentially responsible parties in April 2019, the first remedial design element was completed in September 2020. The Consent Decree for the remedial action has been negotiated and should be entered by the Court in January 2021. Following the expedited process that separates remedial design from the remedial action, construction of the remedial action is expected to begin at least two years earlier than the traditional process.

REGION 5

DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical, Illinois

Since the site's 1997 listing on the National Priorities List, cleanup actions had been conducted by the potentially responsible parties under the State of Illinois oversight. However, two years of negotiations between the State of Illinois and the potentially responsible parties reached an impasse and in response to the state's request in EPA assumed the lead of the site. EPA initially added the DePue (New Jersey Zinc) site to the Administrator's Emphasis List to focus attention on reaching agreement with the responsible party to implement the remedy for the off-site residential soils Operable Unit 4. Although the work began in 2020 under a Unilateral Administrative Order, EPA retained the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List as EPA established additional milestones that are critical to moving the cleanup forward. These milestones include completing negotiations the Operable Unit 4 residential yard cleanup work and remaining remedial investigation and feasibility study work at other site areas. Negotiations between EPA and the responsible parties for the Operable Unit 4 work continue and are expected to be completed in 2021. An Administrative Settlement and Order on Consent with the potentially responsible parties for the remedial investigation and feasibility study work was effective in November 2020. Residential soil cleanup has been paused for the winter and EPA anticipates the start of the 2021 season in mid-to-late April.



Restoring a remediated property at the DePue site.

U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc., Indiana

The site was placed on the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite amending the cleanup decision for Zone 1 to reflect a change in Zone 1 conditions, including future land use, and to ensure completion of soil remediation in Zones 2 and 3. On March 24, 2020, the EPA Administrator amended the 2012 remedy for the former West Calumet



Excavating lead contaminated soil at the USS Lead site.

Housing Complex in Zone 1. The amendment reflects EPA's awareness of local efforts to redevelop Zone 1 for commercial use, although the current designation remains residential. Additionally, EPA has completed soil cleanup at a significant number of residential properties in Zone 2 and 3 and as a result, EPA removed 671 properties at the site from the National Priorities List. EPA tentatively plans to begin deletion proceedings for the remaining Zone 2 and 3 properties in 2022. Operable Unit 2 (the USS Lead facility property and groundwater beneath the entire Site), remain on the National Priorities List.

EPA and USS Lead signed an ASAOC in September 2017 to perform the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for Operable Unit 2, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River, Michigan

After decades of working to cleanup this mega-site, EPA used the Administrator's Emphasis List to bring needed attention to the site, specifically to the negotiation activities. The focused attention concluded 1.5 years of negotiations that culminated in an agreement that addresses many cleanup elements of the



Kalamazoo River Sampling

site, and for the first time, requires the NCR Corporation to perform and finance cleanup work at the site. The agreement with NCR Corporation, worth more than \$244 million, provides funding to cleanup three areas of Operable Unit 5, pays for past and future EPA and State of Michigan costs and natural resource damages and claims. The Operable Unit 5 cleanup includes the removal of the Trowbridge dam, the largest dam within this portion of the river. Removing this dam

allows access to remove contaminated sediments to prevent further contamination downgradient, as the dam continues to deteriorate. Additionally, this effort aligns with the State of Michigan's effort to re-establish natural flow conditions of the river. On April 1, Peter Wright, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management, signed the Action Memorandum for a time-critical removal action in the Trowbridge Impoundment (Area 4) of the Kalamazoo River. NCR is working with EPA on various design elements for the Area 4 TCRA including completion of flood plain sampling and the collection of geotechnical data to support construction of a water control structure at the Trowbridge dam.

St. Regis Paper Company, Minnesota on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation

This site was added to the Administrator's Emphasis List in 2017 to complete the remedy selection process that had stalled for over 6 years. The list brought much needed senior official's attention to the long-standing issues preventing a cleanup decision. This elevated focus resulted in the Agency selecting a \$21.4 million cleanup plan that removes dioxin-contaminated soil on 66 residential properties while meeting the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribe's cleanup standard for dioxin in soil. Activities to implement this long-awaited action can now move forward.



Field sampling at the St. Regis site.

REGION 6

San Jacinto Waste Pits, Texas

The site consists of two waste impoundments (northern and southern) built in the mid-1960s that were used for the disposal of pulp waste containing dioxins. EPA signed a Record of Decision in 2017 that approved a \$115 million cleanup plan for the site that includes removal of waste from the impoundments and off-site disposal. EPA added the site to the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite



The San Jacinto Waste Pits Site

negotiations with the potentially responsible parties to perform remedial design and construct the remedy. As a result of EPA's senior leadership attention, EPA entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with the potentially responsible parties to conduct the remedial design of the remedy. EPA, the state and the potentially responsible parties are actively working on the separate remedial designs for the impoundments. The preliminary design for the northern impoundment has been submitted and reviewed. A pre-final design for the northern impoundment is expected in April 2021. The final design for the southern impoundment was submitted in December 2020 and is under review.

Tar Creek, Oklahoma

The site has five operable units that address contaminated sediment, soil (including residential properties), surface water, groundwater, chat piles, and mine, mill and smelter waste. Since being



placed on the National Priorities List 36 years ago, numerous actions have been implemented at the site; however, due to its complexity and size, the cleanup will require many years to complete. To focus EPA's efforts, the site was added to the Administrator's Emphasis List. The milestone was to

Remediating chat contaminated property.

develop a strategic plan to guide the progress of the site cleanup with near- and long-term actions. The Strategic Plan, a culmination of a year-long cooperative effort with the State of Oklahoma and the Quapaw Nation, was released for public comment in March 2019. The Plan communicates the long-term vision and road map for managing



Property post remediation.

site risks, cleanup, and economic opportunities. The Administrator's Emphasis List was instrumental in bringing parties together to develop a timely long-term strategy. Since release of EPA's Strategic Plan to Improve Cleanup Progress at Tar Creek in September 2019, EPA has continued cleanup coordination with the Quapaw Nation and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to remove and consolidate lead mining waste. Site remediation continues and over \$15 million of funding was provided to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and Quapaw Nation in Fiscal Year 2020 to continue remedial activities.

San Mateo, New Mexico

Because of the focus provided by placing this site on the Administrator's Emphasis List, 1.5 years of inter-agency discussions and potentially responsible party negotiations were concluded and an agreement was finalized that lead to the beginning of active remedial field investigations necessary to move the site cleanup forward. The agreement requires the potentially responsible parties to investigate groundwater contamination in one of the three major areas of the site, the Central Study Area. The agreement also commits the potentially responsible parties to pay response costs EPA incurs in the future, starting with a payment of \$700,000, and secure financial assurance for the \$15 million



estimated cost of the cleanup work.

Finalizing the settlement was an important



component of the overall mining district cleanup strategy initiated in 2010. The first set of remedial investigation and feasibility study scoping documents, including the Work Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan have been submitted and are under review.

Sonic drilling used to conduct sampling during the groundwater investigation.

REGION 7

Des Moines TCE, Iowa

After being listed on the National Priorities List in 1987, Dico/Titan Tire, the potentially responsible parties implemented actions to address soil and groundwater contamination at Des Moines TCE Site. However, many years of litigation stalled the completion of the cleanup and prevented opportunities for site redevelopment. As a result of being added to the Administrator's Emphasis List, EPA, Dico/Titan, and the city of Des Moines negotiated and signed a Consent Decree resolving decades of litigation. As part of this settlement, Dico/Titan will pay \$11.5M to the U.S. and transfer the Dico property to the city of Des Moines. As a condition of receiving the property at no cost, the city is required to perform certain work at the Site, commensurate with the value of the Dico property, to enable redevelopment and remedy protectiveness. The Consent Decree was lodged on September 22, 2020 and a motion to enter was filed on October 23rd with additional information requested by the court submitted in December 2020. Recently, EPA and the city of Des Moines met with a potential developer, an encouraging sign for the future of the site.



Dico Property

Additionally, EPA signed two removal action memos to address the contaminated South Pond and demolish the contaminated on-site buildings. Both removal actions are expected to begin upon transfer of the property to the city.

Carter Carburetor, Missouri

EPA added this site to the Administrator's Emphasis List to complete the cleanup and advance the site's return to the community for productive use. EPA conducted oversight of the completion of all cleanup actions and approved the final removal action report in 2020. Working with stakeholders, EPA addressed concerns over future operation and maintenance of the protective cap at the site and negotiated a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club. Completion of site cleanup actions and signing the Prospective Purchaser Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club achieved this site's Administrator's Emphasis List milestones and now this site has been returned to the community for productive reuse.

On September 16, 2020, at an on-site ceremony, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed the Prospective Purchaser Agreement to allow the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club to acquire a large majority of the site. The Club intends to establish an urban golf center in partnership with Gateway PGA Reach, a non-profit dedicated to positively impacting the lives of youth and diverse populations by enabling access to the game of golf. Not only has a dangerous blight on the community been removed, but a vibrant community amenity is under development that will enrich and serve the youth in the community and is expected to spur additional redevelopment in the area, providing jobs to this Environmental Justice community, and increasing its tax base.



Carter Carburetor Site Before Cleanup



Carter Carburetor Site After Cleanup

West Lake Landfill, Missouri



Boring installation at the West Lake Landfill site.

After selecting a remedy in 2008 for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site Operable Unit 1 to address the areas of the site that contain radiological material, the Agency spent nine more years conducting additional investigations and analysis to further characterize the radiological material. In 2017, EPA committed to the West Lake community that it would conclude the additional analysis and reach a decision on any change to the remedy for Operable Unit 1 by the end of September 2018. To ensure EPA met its commitment to the community, the West Lake Landfill Site was added to the Administrator’s Emphasis List in December 2017. On September 27, 2018, Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed an amendment to the 2008

remedy, that includes partial excavation and removal of radioactive material, construction of an

engineered cover system, and institutional controls. In April 2019, EPA entered into an amended remedial design Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with the potentially responsible parties at the site to perform the remedial design, which is well underway.

Madison County, Missouri

Site cleanup progress at the Madison County Anschutz Mine site was hindered by several years of unproductive negotiations with the historic potentially responsible parties and former site owner. In 2018, however, a company committed to cleaning up and restoring the site to productive reuse approached EPA to negotiate a removal action for the site. Initiation of the Superfund Task Force and placement of the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List in 2018 helped spur a speedy conclusion to negotiations resulting in a removal action that is currently underway to address large-scale historical, surficial mine waste contamination. Since the site was removed from the Administrator's Emphasis List, the site's lessee, Missouri Cobalt, has completed construction of its tailings reprocessing facility on the site and started recovering metals from on-site waste mine tailings. It is also finalizing plans to construct a hydrometallurgical refining plant on the site to further purify recovered metals.



Anschutz Mine

Cleanup of contamination, consolidation and capping work, is moving forward under a removal action Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent entered into by and between the EPA and Missouri Mining Investments, LLC in 2019.

Riverfront, Missouri

The long-term cleanup actions for all six Operable Units at the Riverfront site have been implemented, however, vapor intrusion levels in one residence at Operable Unit 4 continue to be above acceptable levels. The Region has attempted to mitigate the high levels, but it appears that there is a source directly below the house. The Region has temporarily relocated the resident. EPA added this site to the Administrator's Emphasis List in January 2021 to ensure the timely resolution of the vapor intrusion issue. EPA temporarily relocated the resident in order to complete additional sampling of the property. With the additional sampling completed, EPA will develop and select an approach to address the vapor intrusion exposure to be protective of human health. This will require EPA to complete a Focused Feasibility Study and amend the existing Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4. The resident will remain in the temporary residence while EPA completes the remedy amendment process.



Riverfront Operable Unit 4 removal assessment work.

Armour Road, Missouri



Armour Road Site Before Cleanup



Armour Road Site After Cleanup

The Armour Road Site in North Kansas City, Missouri involves a former herbicide blending facility that was heavily contaminated with arsenic and other hazardous substances. This site was referred to EPA by the state, and the Region confirmed the presence of extremely high levels of arsenic in the surface soils at this abandoned facility. The Region then conducted an emergency removal action to prevent

exposures. While the site went through the scoring and listing process, the Region worked with the potentially responsible party group for the performance of a non-time-critical removal action to address the contaminated buildings and soils. Following the completion of this work, a site-wide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was conducted, which is now coming to completion. While the site buildings and soils have been addressed, the groundwater plume, which is in the same alluvial aquifer that the city draws its drinking water from, has not. The EPA added the Armour Road site to the Administrator Emphasis List to ensure timely selection of the final remedy, to address groundwater contamination and, to bring the site to completion. The Feasibility Study is currently under development and the site milestone, the selection of a groundwater remedy through the issuance of a Proposed Plan is expected to be achieved in late 2021.

REGION 8

Bonita Peak Mining District, Colorado



Kittimac Source Area in the Bonita Peak Mining District.

This site was initially added to the Administrator's Emphasis List to expedite selecting a cleanup plan with short and long-term goals. As a result, an interim remedy was selected in May 2019, achieving the initial milestone. However, EPA retained the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List to speed up the process to develop a Site Strategy and a Site Management Plan to support continued progress at the site. These two plans will guide the cleanup approach for the Bonita Peak Mining District site incorporating adaptive management principles in the ongoing cleanup and providing a decision-making framework for future actions.

EPA finalized and released to the public a Site Strategy in February 2020, a month ahead of schedule. EPA continues to work with the community and other stakeholders to finalize the initial version of the Site Management Plan. This engagement process, which has involved numerous meetings and discussions with several community groups has extended the timeline for completion of the initial Site Management Plan. EPA completed the initial Site Management Plan in November 2020. Achieving this milestone would have led to removing the site off the Administrator's Emphasis List. However, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Administrator's Emphasis List, the community opposed removing the site and instead wanted a new milestone. To satisfy community group's concerns, EPA is retaining the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List and has developed a new milestone allowing one year to implement the initial Site Management Plan and make revisions, if necessary.

Anaconda Co. Smelter, Montana



Anaconda Smelter Site

The Anaconda Co. Smelter site was added to the Administrator's Emphasis List to complete negotiations with the responsible parties to implement early actions to address human health exposures and site-wide cleanup work and resolve claims first asserted by EPA in litigation commenced in 1989 in the Montana federal district court. EPA prioritized this site in recognition of the magnitude and complexity of the site issues and to ensure timely resolution. As a result of

intense negotiations and imposed timelines, a signed partial Consent Decree was lodged with the court on October 23, 2020. The public comment period ran through the end of November 2020. A Motion to Enter the partial Consent Decree was filed on December 22, 2020 with the United States District Court in Butte, Montana.

As EPA and Atlantic Richfield negotiated the partial Consent Decree, Atlantic Richfield and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County were involved in parallel negotiations that resulted in an April 2020 agreement which provides funding to the County to implement attic dust cleanup, operate their institutional controls program and assist with redevelopment.

Additionally, the EPA Administrator signed the Amendment to the Anaconda Regional Water, Waste, and Soils Record of Decision on June 12, 2020 to support the partial Consent Decree. The Region also signed an Explanation of Significant Differences for the Community Soils and Old Works/East Anaconda Development Area Records of Decision in June 2020.

Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area, Montana

The Administrator's engagement helped move the parties, who had been at an impasse for over a decade, towards a Consent Decree to conduct significant additional work. Specific challenges related to storm water management due to the site's physical characteristics and meeting state and federal water quality standards. Placing the site on the Administrator's Emphasis List signaled to all parties that the time had come to make decisions, issue a plan for public comment and commit to performing the



Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Site

cleanup. EPA accelerated the negotiations by setting timelines to reach an agreement in principle. After issuing a Proposed Plan, extended public comment period, and dozens of public meetings and opportunities for public input, the EPA Administrator signed the Amendment to the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit Record of Decision in February 2020. The Consent Decree to perform the work was finalized and became effective on November 16, 2020.

REGION 9

Orange County North Basin, California

The site was added to the Administrator’s Emphasis List to finalize a decision on the future National Priorities List disposition of the site. EPA proposed the site to the National Priorities List in January 2018 and after protracted negotiations with the potentially responsible parties, EPA finalized the site on the National Priorities List in September 2020. In parallel with the listing process, the Orange County Water District is conducting an interim Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study pursuant to an agreement with EPA to address the highest levels of groundwater contamination. The Remedial investigation/Feasibility Study is anticipated to be finalized in 2021.



Groundwater Monitoring Well

Abandoned Uranium Mines Contamination on Navajo Nation



Residential and grazing areas near the Quivira mine, where EPA by 2018 removed contaminated soil and temporarily covered and stabilized a waste pile, with work by Arrow Indian Contractors, a Navajo-owned company. EPA also repaired roads, culverts, and a bridge as needed to enable cleanup.

EPA is using placement of this area on the Administrator’s Emphasis List to focus attention to finalize and then execute the *Federal Actions to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination on the Navajo Nation Ten-Year Plan* (“Ten-Year Plan”). The new plan builds on the previous iterations, makes adjustments based on lessons learned and identifies those next steps necessary to address the human

and environmental risks associated with uranium contamination. The 10-Year Plan was submitted to OMB for its review in late September 2020.

Anaconda Copper Mine, Nevada

Since 2001 EPA considered proposing the site for placement on the National Priorities List, with the state requesting in 2004 that EPA take the regulatory lead at the site and the Agency proposing listing on the National Priorities List in September 2016; however, the State of Nevada objected since the state was working on the site under a voluntary agreement with Atlantic Richfield Company. On February 5, 2018 EPA



Anaconda Copper Mine

Administrator Scott Pruitt and Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed a National Priorities List Deferral Agreement to defer the site to the State of Nevada. Under this deferral, cleanup at the mine must achieve the same level of human health and environmental protection as a site on the National Priorities List and must meet all applicable federal and state requirements. EPA will review whether remedies proposed, selected, and implemented by the state and Atlantic Richfield are protective under Superfund. EPA remains the lead for performing the remedial investigation and feasibility study work on Tribal Lands, the Yerington Paiute Tribe's reservation and the Walker River Paiute Tribe's reservation.

Casmalia, California



Aerial photo (1984) shows historic Casmalia site layout.



Three capped landfills and on-site runoff control facility pond.

The Site was previously added to the Administrator’s Emphasis List to finalize the development and selection of the comprehensive site remedy needed to address in a long-term manner the risks posed by this large inactive hazardous waste management facility and spur action on redevelopment efforts. After decades of implementing early response actions to stabilize the site and address imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment, the comprehensive final remedy addresses the entire site and provides protection in the long-term. EPA has recently approved several design-related deliverables prepared by the potentially responsible parties, including a final remedial design work plan , a predesign investigation work plan for capping a central portion of the site, a sampling and analysis plan , a basis-of-design document for upcoming capping work, and a 100% remedial design package for grading and hot spot removal.

REGION 10

Portland Harbor, Oregon

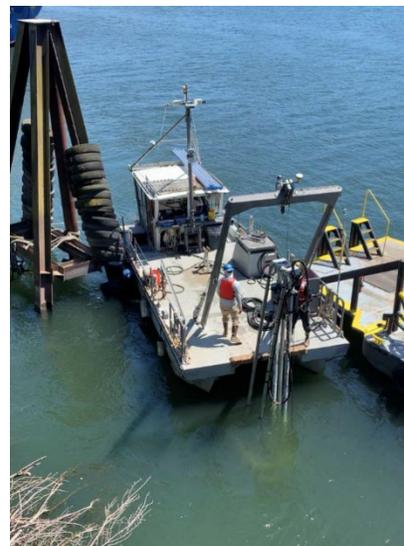


Remnant piles at the Portland Harbor site.



Portland Harbor Site

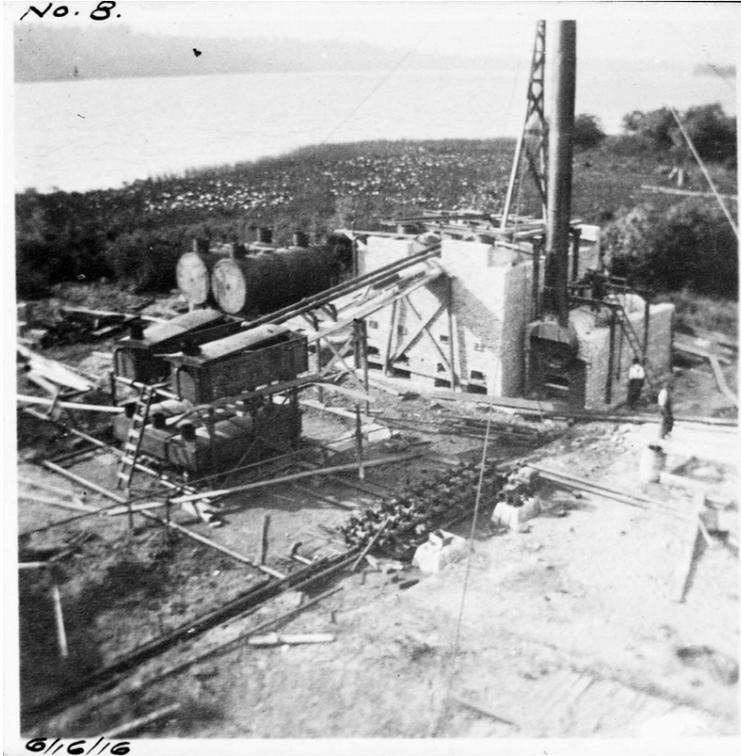
EPA placed the Portland Harbor Superfund site, located in Portland, Oregon, on the National Priorities List in 2000. After 17 years of conducting studies and evaluations, EPA issued the final cleanup plan for the site, a 10-mile stretch of the Lower Willamette River. The cleanup will reduce health risks to people, fish, and wildlife, and set the stage for commercial and industrial redevelopment and revitalization of the river and waterfront that runs through the economic heart of Portland. EPA added the site to the Administrator’s Emphasis List to expedite negotiations and to finalize agreements with potentially responsible parties to perform the remedial design and implement the 2017 remedy. Subsequently, EPA entered into an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with the potentially responsible parties to conduct the pre-remedial design work which has been completed. To date, EPA has completed several agreements with multiple parties and issued two orders to conduct the remedial design of the remedy at 75% of the areas requiring active remediation, and design has been started under those agreements and orders. EPA plans to finalize agreements and initiate remedial design work for the remaining areas in 2021.



Collecting subsurface sediment samples on the Lower Willamette River.

Quendall Terminals, Washington

Quendall Terminals spent a decade on the National Priorities List facing stalled cleanup because of its unique characteristics – significant creosote/coal tar in the subsurface of the largest undeveloped



Historic photo of the operating Quendall Terminals facility.

property on the Lake Washington shoreline; and ownership of the Site/property by the potentially responsible party group who likely lacks the financial capability of remediating and re-developing the property without the participation of other potential responsible parties and/or a third party developer. EPA faced challenges in developing and evaluating remedial alternatives that satisfied the threshold cleanup criteria while facilitating or enhancing the possibility for future Site redevelopment opportunities. The EPA used the Administrator's Emphasis List to bring needed attention to the Site, specifically to support conducting a pilot study for an innovative technology (smoldering combustion) to complement the use of other

available more conventional cleanup approaches. The pilot study provided valuable information for EPA to complete its development and evaluation of remedial alternatives, identify its preferred alternative for the site's two operable units and issue a Record of Decision selecting the remedial actions for each operable unit.

The focused attention also rapidly concluded a process that allows EPA to engage with the



potentially responsible parties and potential prospective purchasers on an agreement to implement the selected remedy. The cleanup, which addresses contaminated soil, sediment, and ground water contamination includes in-situ treatment, soil capping, and removal of contaminated sediment, as well as institutional controls for long-term protectiveness.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Sites Proposed to the National Priorities List but Never Finalized

EPA added a specific project to the Administrator's Emphasis List that involves reviewing sites that have been proposed but not yet added to the National Priorities List. EPA will review and evaluate the current status of such sites and determine if it is still necessary to continue the National Priorities List listing process for those sites or if EPA can withdraw the proposal. This project aims to provide clarity, transparency and certainty regarding the site status on the National Priorities List. EPA is currently finalizing the review and will provide recommendations in 2021.



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