



EPA Completes Work At The Sinclair Refinery Site in Wellsville, NY

Community Update

December 2012

Timeline

- Remedial construction and site restoration completed May 2012
- Final inspection of remedial construction June 2012
- EPA completes fourth Five Year Review Report September 2012
- EPA approves Final Remedial Action Report September 2012
- Implementation of institutional controls - 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Community Involvement

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's Superfund program. If you have any questions regarding cleanup activities at the site, please contact:

- Michael Negrelli, Remedial Project Manager, at (212) 637-4278 or email negrelli.mike@epa.gov or
- Michael Basile, Community Involvement Coordinator at (716) 551-4410 or email basile.michael@epa.gov

INTRODUCTION

This update is to inform the community of the completion of the cleanup at the Sinclair Refinery Superfund site in Wellsville, Allegany County, New York.

SITE HISTORY

The Sinclair Refinery site covers approximately 100 acres adjacent to the west bank of the Genesee River, one-quarter mile south of downtown Wellsville, New York. The refinery was built in the late 1800's and operated by the Wellsville Refining Company until 1919 when the Sinclair Refining Company (now Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO)) purchased the property. Sinclair operated the refinery until 1958 when a fire ended operations. After closure of the refinery, a majority of the property was transferred to the Village of Wellsville, which subsequently conveyed land parcels to various entities including the State University of New York and the several companies now occupying the site.

COMPLETED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

During refinery operations, various types of wastes including cloth filters, oil sludges, contaminated soil, pesticides, heavy metals, and fly ash were disposed of in two on-site landfills located at the southern end of the site along the west bank of the Genesee River. In 1981, record rainfalls caused debris from the landfills to wash into the river, resulting in an interim action undertaken by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to stabilize the riverbank adjacent to and downstream from the landfills. In 1983, following further inspections, the site was placed on the EPA National Priorities List. In order to address the potential threats posed by the site to the local drinking water supply, in 1988, EPA, NYSDEC, and ARCO relocated the town's river water intake from a point downstream of the site to a point upstream.

Recognizing that stabilization of the eroding landfill required immediate attention, EPA designated this area of the site as the first stage of activity where remediation would be accomplished and the remaining refinery property, which required further characterization, as the second stage of activity. In 1985, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) which called for the consolidation and capping of two small landfills and partial channelization of the adjacent Genesee River. ARCO entered into a Consent Decree to perform this work and all remedial activities under stage one were completed by 1994. Approximately 464,640 tons (290,400 cubic yards) of waste material were contained within the landfill. Operation and maintenance of this area of the site is ongoing.

In addition, a study into the nature and extent of contamination on the refin-

Superfund:

For information on the Superfund process, please visit EPA's website www.epa.gov/superfund. The website contains information on the various tools and resources available to communities.

For Information Specific to the Sinclair Refinery Site, visit EPA's Region 2 website at www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/nar190.htm

Regional Public Liaison:

Should you have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, please call (888) 283-7626

Document Repository Information

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ery portion of the site was performed by ARCO under an EPA order. The study found the site soils and groundwater to be impacted by volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals. In 1991, the stage two remedy decision was made to excavate and dispose of surface soils exceeding the remedial cleanup criteria for arsenic and lead and the extraction and treatment of contaminated site groundwater.

Completion of the surface soils excavation and disposal was accomplished in 1994 with the removal of approximately 24,000 tons (15,000 cubic yards) of contaminated soil.

Groundwater treatment has been addressed in two phases. Phase 1 was a sub-surface source removal operation accomplished primarily through air sparging and soil vapor extraction. Phase 1 was initiated in 1993 and completed in 2003 resulting in the removal of more than 160,000 pounds of sub-surface contamination acting as a source to groundwater contamination. A Phase 2 groundwater remedy was then initiated to address the collection and treatment of contaminated groundwater. In addition to the site groundwater, Phase 2 includes some oil sheen impacted material in the riverbed of the Genesee River adjacent to a portion of the site and in the main drainage swale.

The Phase 2 groundwater remedy is the final remedial action planned at the site. The major components of the Phase 2 remedy include the construction of a groundwater extraction and wetland treatment system and the excavation of oil sheen-impacted hot spots from the river bottom and main drainage swale. Differences between the groundwater remedy selected in the 1991 ROD and the actions implemented under Phase 2 were described by EPA in an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) issued in August 2009. The design of the groundwater extraction and wetland treatment system was completed in May 2007 and has been operating since December 2008. Data collected since the system began operating indicates that the groundwater is being effectively treated by the system and that the Genesee River is protected from contaminated site groundwater. The design for the excavation and backfilling of oil sheen-impacted sediment and soil in the river and main drainage swale was completed in spring 2009 and the work was completed in 2010.

Post-construction restoration work, including the restoration of the recreational trail running atop the western bank of the Genesee river and the recapping of the on-site landfill was accomplished from 2011 to early 2012. A site inspection was conducted in June 2012 with EPA, NYSDEC, and ARCO attending. The inspection confirmed that all work had been accomplished in accordance with design specifications and that the systems were operating as designed.

CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Upon completion of the work, EPA notified ARCO to undertake operation, maintenance, and monitoring (OM&M) activities in accordance with the draft OM&M Plan that had been prepared for the site. The OM&M Plan will be finalized and incorporated into a comprehensive site management plan (SMP) to address all future uses of the site. Additionally, EPA's 2009 ESD called for environmental easements to be placed on all the property parcels on the site. ARCO is presently completing the process of obtaining the necessary easements which will be filed with the county. Once the easements are in place they will be incorporated into the SMP and the implemented remedy will have addressed all potential threats to human health and the environment. Completion of the SMP is expected in 2013.

