

Havertown PCP Superfund Site

Community Update

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Haverford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

February 2023

Site Background

The Havertown PCP Superfund Site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1982. Since 1947, chemicals used by the National Wood Preservers (NWP) facility leached into the ground and contaminated soil and groundwater. While there are many Site related contaminants, pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins/furans and naphthalene are the primary contaminants of concern.

Major actions taken by EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) include:

- 1996: To prevent exposure and further migration of contamination, the contaminated NWP facility was covered with several feet of soil overlying a synthetic material.
- 2010: Completion of a series of groundwater collection points and treatment plant to capture and remove contamination from the groundwater.
- 2021: As a result of contaminated groundwater reaching the surface due to increased water table, EPA waterproofed residential structures, excavated contaminated soil, and constructed more groundwater collection points along Rittenhouse Circle where contaminated groundwater was observed.

Current Site Status

Recent cleanup actions on Rittenhouse Circle allow for more contaminated groundwater to be collected and treated. The original groundwater treatment plant (GWTP), located at 900 N. Eagle Road, was too small to handle the higher volume of water collected and only treated up to 65 gallons per minute (gpm) of water. EPA demolished the old GWTP, and installed a temporary treatment system, which treats up to 100 gpm. In 2023 EPA will begin construction of a new permanent treatment system with capability of treating up to 175 gpm. Funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will be used for this construction work.

In 2019, EPA drilled several new groundwater test wells throughout the area to investigate the cause of the new groundwater seepage that occurred on Rittenhouse Circle. Results found high concentrations of contaminants, particularly PCP, beneath the former GWTP area west of Eagle Road. EPA also identified an area of groundwater contamination in bedrock that is much deeper than was previously known at depths up to 300 feet below the surface. This area extends from the NWP property to under the parking lot of the YMCA.

Should I Be Concerned About Exposure To Site Contaminants?

No. The cleanup actions taken since 2020 have eliminated all known contamination at or near the ground surface. The groundwater collection system is capturing contaminated groundwater before it discharges to Naylor's Run. Groundwater in this area is not pumped or used as potable water supply, so any direct contact with contaminated groundwater has been eliminated. Multiple rounds of testing for vapors that could emanate from the Site or groundwater have not found any accumulation of contaminant gases in residential, commercial, or recreational buildings that sit over the area of groundwater contamination.

Key Highlights:

- EPA has completed all cleanup work in residential areas on Rittenhouse Circle.
- Township residents and businesses are not currently exposed to Site contaminants.
- A temporary treatment plant is currently treating contaminated groundwater.
- EPA is seeking public comment on options that are being evaluated for the new treatment plant. The new treatment plant will have the capability to extract more contaminated groundwater than the current plant.

For More Information on the Site:

Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/havertownpcp>
or scan the QR code below



Learn more about EPA's Superfund Program:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund>



Above: Soil excavation at one of the affected properties August 2020

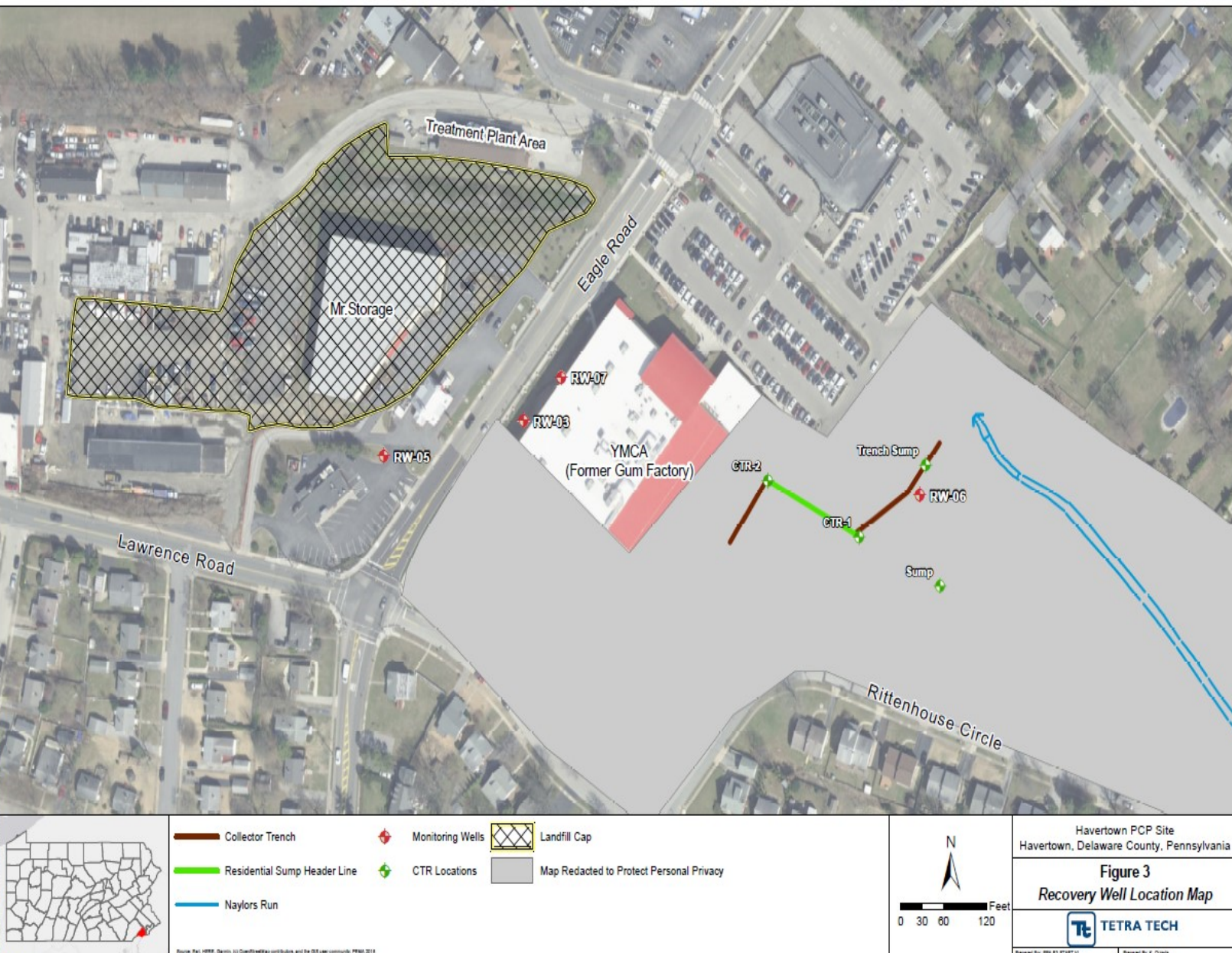
What's Next for the Site?

EPA will issue an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Site. An EE/CA is a plan that evaluates options for the new groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) to the public for review and comment. Instructions for the public comment period, and a public availability session are below. Following the EE/CA public comment period, and taking into consideration any substantive comments received, EPA will finalize the new GWTP plan and begin construction of the new facility. The new GWTP will be located at the same location as the original facility.

To define the full depth and extent of the recently discovered deeper groundwater contamination, EPA will be drilling additional test wells throughout the area. Some of the new, and older, test wells will likely become new groundwater collection wells that will pump water to the new GWTP for treatment. A map showing the current area of groundwater contamination, groundwater collection points and location of the temporary treatment system is below.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) Investigation Findings

ATSDR is a health agency that works closely with EPA. In response to community concerns regarding local cancer incidence, ATSDR worked with PADOH to perform a cancer registry data review to determine if an increased risk for cancer incidence exists in Havertown, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. To do this, PADOH utilized data from Pennsylvania's Cancer Registry. Ultimately, the review of the data found that the Agencies cannot connect observed changes in cancer rates to any source of potential environmental education. PADOH is committed to evaluating new data for this community as it becomes available. This cancer data review report is available on the PADOH website: <https://bit.ly/3dyE2Uy>. For more information on this review and findings, please contact the ATSDR Representative on page 3



The Community's Role

The public is encouraged to review the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and submit comments to EPA from February 13, 2023 to March 15, 2023. Comments may be submitted any one of three ways. All comments received will be treated equally.

- **Mail (postmarked no later than March 15, 2023):**

U.S. EPA Region 3 Attn: Joshua Barber
MC:3SD21
1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103

- **E-mail:** barber.joshua@epa.gov

- **Voicemail:** Call 215-814-2007 to leave a message.

Please speak slowly and clearly and include your name and phone number.

The EE/CA, and other site documents, can be viewed online at:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/havertownpcp> OR in person at:



Above: Havertown PCP Superfund Site



Haverford Township Free Library
1601 Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083
(610) 446-3082

U.S. EPA Region 3

1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-2396



Please call to schedule an appointment.

Public Availability Session

EPA will host an in person public availability session at the Haverford Township Administration Building's Board of Commissioners Room to provide an opportunity for the public to raise, with EPA personnel and others, questions and issues regarding the EE/CA.

This session will be held on February 23, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Haverford Township Administration Building's Board of Commissioners Room located at 1014 Darby Rd, Havertown, PA 19083

Questions? Contact The Site Team:

Joshua Barber

Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3393
barber.joshua@epa.gov

Eduardo Rovira

On-Scene Coordinator
215-814-3436
rovira.eduardo@epa.gov

Angela Ithier

Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5248
ithier.angela@epa.gov

Robert Helverson

ATSDR Representative
215-814-3139
gfu6@cdc.gov

Address Label Here

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
Attn: Angela Ithier
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103

