

Brook Industrial Park

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD078251675

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 07

Somerset
Bound Brook

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 6/24/1988

Final Date: 10/4/1989

Site Description

The Brook Industrial Park, a 4 1/2-acre complex of light industries and warehouses, lies on the northern bank of the Raritan River in an industrialized area of Bound Brook. The site is flanked by railroads, and commercial and residential areas. The Industrial Park consists of three buildings, referred to as Stirling Center, Blue Spruce and National Metal. Industrial, chemical, and pesticide production and storage began in 1971, when Blue Spruce International occupied part of the facility. Several operations were cited for poor housekeeping and waste disposal practices. Several companies have operated in the industrial park, including Blue Spruce Chemical, Jame Fine Chemicals, Inc., and National Metal Finishings Corp. The materials that several companies used or processed have migrated into the groundwater. Public wells within 3 miles of the site provide water to an estimated 290,000 people. The Raritan River, adjacent to the site, is used for recreational and commercial purposes.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Prior to cleanup, Blue Spruce building flooring, as well as soils in the basement, contained a wide variety of pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Dioxin was detected in the flooring and basement soil. In addition, the basement of the Stirling Center facility was found to contain elevated levels of heavy metals. Outdoor soils at the Brook Industrial Park site are contaminated with pesticides, VOCs, and heavy metals. At National Metal Finishings, a subsurface pit revealed heavy metals, VOCs, and inorganics. The groundwater was found to contain elevated levels of VOCs and heavy metals. Direct contact with or accidental ingestion of contaminated soil or groundwater may cause adverse health effects.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two stages: emergency actions and a long-term remedial phase directed at cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Emergency Actions: In 1983, the EPA used emergency funds to secure the Blue Spruce building and to cover a dioxin-contaminated area with asphalt. In 1990, fencing was installed on a portion of the site to eliminate accidental contact with possible contaminants.

Entire Site: In 1994, the EPA completed an intensive study of contamination problems at the site to determine the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination, and to develop remedial alternatives. On September 30, 1994, EPA signed a Record of Decision selecting a remedy for the site which included excavation and off-site treatment and disposal of contaminated soil (approximately 5,000 cubic yards, or 8,000 tons); demolition and disposal/incineration of the contaminated portions of the Blue Spruce building; and extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater, followed by reinjection of the treated water. The design of the Blue Spruce building demolition was completed in September 1998 and the design of the soil excavation was completed in December 1999. The design of the ground water pump and treat system, being conducted by Jame Fine Chemicals, was completed in 2004.

Cleanup Progress

The Blue Spruce building demolition was completed in August 1999. Approximately 500 cubic yards of wood, 400 tons of brick/concrete, and 500 tons of contaminated soil from the basement of the building were removed and disposed off-site in a Subtitle C landfill. In addition, the soil excavation component of the remedy was completed in September 2006. Approximately 29,000 tons of soil were excavated and disposed off-site. Construction of the groundwater pump and treat system was completed in the summer of 2006.

Site Facts EPA has settled the litigation against potentially responsible parties for the site to recover past and future costs. In addition, a potentially responsible party is performing the groundwater remedy for the site.

Site Repositories

US Environmental Protection Agency 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007 - 18th Floor