

Diamond Head Oil

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD092226000

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 13

Hudson
Kearny

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 7/27/2000
Final Date: 9/5/2002

Site Description

The Diamond Head Oil site is located at 1401 Harrison Avenue in Kearny, New Jersey. The site, an oil reprocessing facility, was in operation from February 1, 1946 to early 1979. Currently the site is inactive and consists of approximately 15 acres of vacant land. The site is comprised of wetland areas and drainage ditches, a small wetland/pond, a vegetated landfill area along the western border of the site, and remnants of the former Diamond Head Oil Refinery on the eastern portion of the site. During facility operations, two above-ground storage tanks and possibly underground pits were used to store oily wastes. These wastes were intermittently discharged directly to adjacent properties, including the wetland area to the south of the site, creating an "oil lake". The abandoned refinery portion of the site contains various construction debris, including foundations of the former on-site building and also of two former above-ground storage tanks.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) acquired the property south of the site in 1968. In 1977, NJDOT began construction of Interstate 280 and was reported to have removed nine million gallons of oil-contaminated water and five to six million cubic yards of oily sludge from the "lake". In addition, approximately 7,500 gallons of material were pumped out of the tanks and disposed of off site. Twenty-seven tons of contaminated soil were also removed in 1982.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions

Threat and Contaminants

The material in the former above-ground tanks was analyzed and found to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at a concentration of up to 206 parts per million (ppm). Subsequent analyses revealed the presence of PCBs at concentrations over 3,100 ppm. Analytical results from further sampling events where ground water, surface water/sediment, surface/subsurface soil, liquid waste and solid waste samples were collected, indicated the presence of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCBs, and metals. At one time an "oil lake" was present over portions of the site, and remnants of this release are still evident in site samples.

The site includes a landfill mound that appears to contain concrete and other construction debris. Further investigations of this landfill will better understand its contents.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed through a long-term remedial phase directed at cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

The site is fenced and abandoned, and early investigations did not identify a need for any short-term response actions beyond preventing access. As part of the Remedial Investigation for the site, which started in 2002, extensive sampling is being conducted to characterize the site, including the potential for off-site migration.

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is being performed in two phases. The completed Phase 1 remedial investigation was performed to obtain information in areas where there was currently no information on site contamination, including soil, sediment surface water and groundwater sampling. The results of the Phase 1 investigation were used to define the objectives and scope of the Phase 2 investigation, where additional soil, groundwater quality, geologic, and hydrogeologic data would be collected within the property boundaries of the site as well as beyond the site's current property boundaries.

Cleanup Progress

EPA is at present conducting the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The results of the investigation will be used by EPA to plan final remedies for the site.

Site Repositories

290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866