



Crater Resources Inc./Keystone Coke Co./Alan Wood Steel Co. Site



Upper Merion Township
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III Information Update June, 2000

EPA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED PLAN

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA) will hold a public meeting to announce a Proposed Plan to identify its preferred alternative to address contamination in groundwater, soils, and sediment at the Crater Resources Inc./Keystone Coke Co./ Alan Wood Steel Co. Superfund Site (referred to as "Crater Resources" or "Site") located in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The public meeting will be held on:
Tuesday, June 27, 2000
7-9 p.m. in the Valley Forge Room
Upper Merion Township Building
175 W. Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-265-2600

At this meeting, EPA will present the Proposed Plan and supporting information, answer questions, and accept both oral and written comments from the public. EPA will summarize and respond to comments received at the public meeting and written comments in the Responsiveness Summary section of the Record of Decision, which documents EPA's final selection for cleanup at the Site.

The Role of the Community in the Selection Process

This Proposed Plan is being distributed to solicit public comment on the appropriate cleanup action for the Site. EPA relies on public input so the remedy selected for each Superfund Site meets the needs and concerns of the local community. EPA is providing a 30-day public comment period beginning on June 16, 2000 to encourage public participation in the selection process. Written comments, postmarked within comment period, should be sent to:

Andrea Lord (3HS21)
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-5053

EPAs PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA's Preferred Alternative includes removal of all affected soils and sediments in Quarry 3, construction of a multi-layer cap to prevent filtration of surface water into the contaminated soils of Quarries 1, 2, and 4 and other affected soil areas, monitored natural attenuation of the groundwater, and further investigation of the former waste ammonia liquor pipeline that was located between the Alan Wood Steel facility and the Crater Resources Site.

Documents supporting EPA's proposed remedy are in the Administrative Record for the Site. The Administrative Record includes the Remedial Investigation (RI), the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), and the Feasibility Study (FS). The Administrative Record is at the following locations:

Upper Merion Township Library
175 W. Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 265-2600

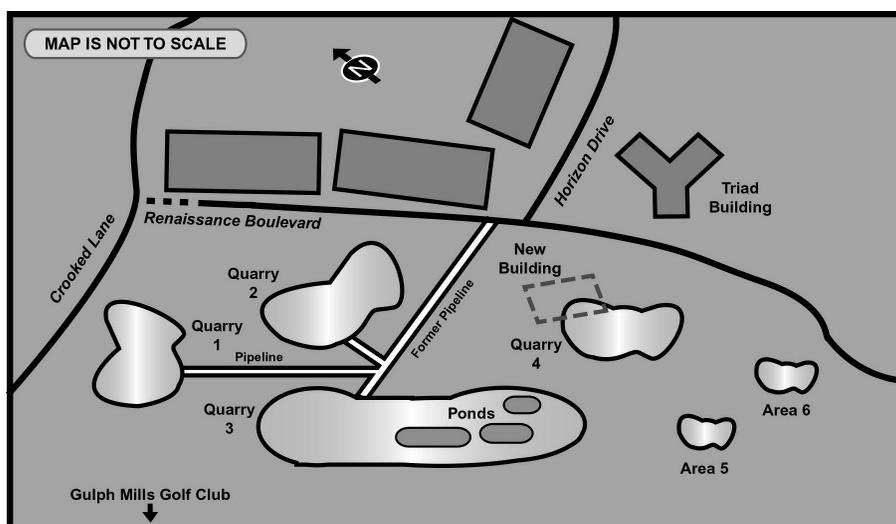
Administrative Record Center
U.S. EPA - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-3157
Call for appointment

Some general background on the Site can be obtained from EPA's web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/crater/menu.htm>

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their comments on the Proposed Plan and the other documents in the Administrative Record to EPA during the public comment period. Although EPA has selected a preferred alternative, no final decision has been made. EPA may modify the preferred alternative, select another response action, or develop another alternative if public comment or new information presented warrants such an action. EPA, in consultation with the PADEP, will make its final selection of a remedy for the cleanup of the contamination at the Site in a Record of Decision (ROD).

SITE MAP



The Crater Resources Site is bordered on the south by the Gulph Mills Golf Course and on the east and northeast by Renaissance Boulevard. The western portion of the Site is adjacent to where Crooked Lane intersects with the SEPTA railroad tracks. Residents in Hughes Park, along Crooked Lane, and in the western portion of Swedeland are nearest to the Site.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF RESPONSE ACTIONS

The Site covers 50 acres of partially developed land located approximately one mile south of the King of Prussia section of Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Portions of the Site are currently being developed by private entities. The Site consists of several subdivided parcels, now owned individually by Crater Resources, Inc., Each Parcel As Is, Inc., Out Parcel, Inc., RT Option, Inc., Liberty Property Trust, Inc., and the Gulph Mills Golf Club (Golf Course). Four former quarries (Quarries 1, 2, 3, and 4) are located on the Site and cover approximately 14 acres. In addition, 2 small areas, known as Areas 5 and 6 are on the property. Portions of the former pipeline that carried the waste ammonia liquor (WAL) from the former Alan Wood Steel facility are also in existence. Contamination has been found in the soil, groundwater and sediment in and surrounding Quarries 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Areas 5 and 6. In addition, contamination has been found in the soils along the route of the former WAL pipeline.

The primary objective of the proposed remedy is to reduce or eliminate the potential for human or ecological exposure to contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater at the Site. EPA believes the preferred cleanup alternative outlined in this Proposed Plan will comprehensively address any threat posed by the release of hazardous substances at or from the Site.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Alan Wood Steel Company and its successors (Alan Wood) operated a coke and coke byproduct manufacturing facility in nearby Swedeland, Pennsylvania from 1918 until 1977. The facility was located on the west side of the Schuylkill River, approximately one mile northeast of the Site. After Alan Wood declared bankruptcy in 1977, the facility and property were first leased and subsequently sold to the Keystone Coke Company (Keystone Coke). Keystone Coke operated the facility from 1978 until 1981, when all operations at the facility ceased.

Waste ammonia liquor (WAL) was a liquid waste generated during the coke byproduct recovery process, and contained light oils, tars containing phenolic compounds, naphthalene, ammonia, and wastewater. WAL was pumped via pipeline from the Alan Wood facility to Quarries 1, 2, and 3, and remnants of the pipeline are still visible near the western edge of Quarry 3.

HISTORY OF EPA INVOLVEMENT

EPA placed the Site on its Superfund list for cleanup in 1992. This is EPA's fourth public fact sheet and will be the third public meeting held to update residents about the site.

Most of the environmental work taking place at the Site is being funded by a group of potentially responsible parties. Under the Superfund law, PRPs are expected to conduct or pay for site cleanup. The PRP group members are Beazer East, Inc., Keystone Coke Company, Inc., and Vesper Corporation.

Following the June 27th public meeting and comment period, EPA will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) describing the final chosen remedy for the site, along with a timeline.

CONSTRUCTION CONCERNS

There has been public concern about construction, which has occurred near Quarry 4 and is proposed between Quarries 1 and 2. This construction is not related to the EPA cleanup, but is being done by private developers. EPA does not believe the underlying contaminated soil and groundwater are being disturbed. An underground pipe was unearthed during construction near Quarry 4, and the construction company properly and immediately notified EPA. A contractor hired by the Property Owner has removed the contaminated underground piping and associated soils.



HEALTH RISK

EPA completed a human health risk assessment in December, 1999. This assessment showed risks to human health from the long term ingestion of or contact with contaminated groundwater and soils in the quarries. EPA believes that all surrounding residents and businesses are supplied with drinking water through a municipal water line, so there is little chance of contact with contaminated groundwater. Complete contaminant descriptions are available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/crater/menu.htm>. These documents are also available at the Upper Merion Township Library.

To obtain additional information relating to this Proposed Plan, please contact either of the following EPA representatives:

William Hudson
Community Involvement
Coordinator
U.S. EPA - Region III
1650 Arch Street (3HS43)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-5532
HUDSON.WILLIAM@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

Andrea M. Lord
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA - Region III
1650 Arch Street (3HS21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-5053

STATUS OF CLEANUP AT AREA SUPERFUND SITE

Look Inside for the Latest Update.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William Hudson 3HS43
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029