



Eastern Diversified Metals Superfund Site

Hometown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania



-- Agreement Reached to Finish Cleanup --

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

September 2003

Company Agrees to Complete Site Cleanup...

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has negotiated a settlement with Nassau Metals Corp. on the cleanup at the Eastern Diversified Metals Superfund Site. Nassau Metals, Corp. has agreed to complete a \$25 million cleanup. Nassau Metals has already spent \$11 million on the on-going cleanup at the 25-acre site and this agreement will require the company to complete the EPA-approved cleanup plan, at an estimated additional cost of up to \$14 million.

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of federal and state governments, and potentially responsible parties, called PRPs. Although EPA named Nassau Metals as a PRP for the cleanup, as part of the settlement, Nassau Metals has not admitted liability for the site cleanup.



Background Information...

This site is a former metals reclamation facility. From 1966 until 1977, the now-bankrupt Eastern Diversified Metals Corp. reclaimed copper and aluminum from wire and cable. During the operations, the company disposed of approximately 350 million pounds of leftover plastic stripping (referred to as fluff) in an open pile. This fluff is insulation coverings that have been stripped off of copper wires and contains hazardous materials including lead, plastics, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and possibly dioxin compounds, as a result of past fires on-site.

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List in June 1986 and EPA formally added the site to the list in October 1989, making it eligible for federal cleanup funding. The NPL is a list of the nation's most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long-term cleanup action.



← The fluff disposal pile is approximately 40 feet high (as tall as a four-story building), 250 feet wide (almost one football field), and 1,500 feet long (five football fields).

Questions?

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More information is available at:

www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/PA/eastern-diversified/pad.html

Site Cleanup...



A site investigation led to several EPA decisions about how best to clean up the site. The fluff pile remedial designs are underway and will take approximately two years to complete, at which time construction will start. The upcoming remedial activities will involve isolating the contaminants in the fluff pile under a multi-layered impermeable cap. The fluff will be graded into a smooth mound and covered by thick plastic liners, which will prevent water from getting into the contaminated material. A drainage layer will be installed over both liners to divert water off the cap and into drainage ditches. Then, the cap will be completed

with a cover of two feet of soil and thick grass vegetation.

These remedial plans require managing storm water runoff, ground water monitoring, and security controls. The plans also require monitoring landfill gas and installing a gas collection and treatment system, if needed. EPA approved the final cleanup plan after an extensive review of technical and environmental studies, sampling data, legal requirements and public comment.

Since the initial actions taken in 1987, EPA has completed a five-year review of the site in February 2003, to make sure the cleanup methods already in place are working and to confirm that EPA's overall mission to protect human health and the environment is being achieved.

Fluff Pile Contaminants of Concern	
<p><u>Lead</u></p> <p>Some lead is naturally occurring, and it is possible to be exposed to low levels of lead each day. However, long-term exposure to higher levels could lead to learning disabilities and growth problems in children under the age of six.</p>	<p><u>Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)</u></p> <p>PCBs are chemicals that can enter the body by breathing in contaminated dust or by skin contact. Long-term exposure to high levels of PCBs may cause skin irritation, developmental problems in children or even cancer.</p>
<p><u>Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)</u></p> <p>DEHP is added to plastics to make them flexible. DEHP can enter the body by eating foods that have been contaminated from plastics during processing and storage. Long-term exposure can lead to gastrointestinal problems.</p>	<p><u>Dioxins</u></p> <p>Dioxins are byproducts from some manufacturing processes. Exposure can occur mainly from eating food that contains the chemicals. Some dioxins may cause skin problems and possible long-term effects include cancer.</p>

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html>



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