

General Services Administration (GSA)

Southeast Federal Center (SEFC) or “The Yards”
2nd & M St SW
Washington, DC 20507
Congressional District 1
EPA ID #: DC8470090004
Last Updated: 11/02/2009

Current Progress at the Site

The Site is less than half of the 124-acre, 200-year old Washington Navy Yard. GSA received the Site from the Navy in 1963. GSA investigated and remediated some soil and removed drums of waste from the Site voluntarily. GSA stepped up investigation and remediation under a Consent Decree administered by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) on behalf of a number of plaintiffs. On July 14, 1999, EPA issued GSA an Administrative Order under Section 3013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to investigate and take interim measures on Site contamination. Under the Consent Decree and the Order, the following work has been completed:

- **Interim Measures-** are short- or –long term actions taken to abate contamination before final remedy. GSA removed drums of chemicals from buildings, removed asbestos and other hazardous building materials prior to razing buildings. GSA is renovating the historic buildings remaining; GSA removed contaminated soil, cleaned and rehabilitated storm sewers and storm sewer outfalls; dismantled the rotting sea wall and built a new seawall on the Anacostia River. Further studies and remediation will commence prior to development on each parcel, as needed.
- US DOT Parcel Soil Excavation and Groundwater Extraction and Treatment were initiated under the Interim Measures Work Plan in April 2004. On the DOT parcel, on-site soil meets EPA’s acceptable risk for the office building use. Status: Soils remediated, and groundwater remediation is on-going. EPA approved the clean up in Final Decision dated July 14, 2005. The building is completed and in use.
- **RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)** was initiated to provide more in-depth information on near shore sediments at the Anacostia River, any groundwater contamination and information about other units and areas of concern. Status: EPA approved the Report in July 2008.

More detail on the work described above, GSA:

- Removed contaminated sediments from 2 storm water outfalls, including the primary storm sewer outfall onsite, under NPDES permitting. Sediments were contaminated with PCBs and metals.
- Abated and razed 12 Buildings contaminated with PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals & asbestos.
- Cleaned-up 13 soil hot spots contaminated with heavy metals & PCBs.
- Removed the old seawall and installed a more effective one on the Anacostia River.
- Completed Near shore Sediment Studies.

- Completed the groundwater investigation of an MTBE hotspot. MTBE levels have diminished over time.

On-going work includes more detailed parcel by parcel investigations and interim measures prior to redevelopment of historic buildings and vacant parcels.

Site Description

The site is located on the banks of the Anacostia River, within two miles of the White House. The site began in 1799 as a shipbuilding facility, became an ordnance research and manufacturing facility, and since World War II, was restructured for use as office and storage space. The SEFC portion was transferred to GSA in 1963, and consisted of about 55-acres. An 11-acre parcel was sold and the new office building is US DOT's headquarters office.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3.

Contaminants

On-site, soil contamination is the media most affected by the previous intensive industrial work of the WNY. Main contaminants in soil include petroleum hydrocarbons, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals, such as lead, arsenic and chromium. Groundwater contamination was discovered under the DOT parcel, prior to development. The contaminants migrated from a former gas station across the street, with some WNY contribution. The main contaminants in the groundwater are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes and naphthalene, and minor incidences of MTBE. Most of the soil above the water table was removed from the DOT parcel, and groundwater remediation is on-going.

Community Interaction

The SEFC Site borders the Anacostia River in S.E. Washington D. C. and is surrounded by an active residential community. An approved community relations plan has been implemented since 2001.

Institutional Controls

Groundwater on the DOT parcel is prohibited for use as drinking water under the current Deeds.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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