

Myers Property

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654198

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 12

Hunterdon
Franklin Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/1/1982
Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Myers Property site is located in a rural part of western New Jersey amid farmland and residential areas. The site includes approximately five acres of land currently owned by Arkema Inc. (Arkema), a potentially responsible party (PRP) for the site, and approximately two acres of land on the east side of Lower Kingtown Road which is owned by the State of New Jersey and is mostly a wetland area. Cakepoulin Creek, a trout production stream used for recreational fishing, runs adjacent to the site, and eventually drains to the South Branch of the Raritan River. Springs surface on the property and flow into the creek and through a wetland adjacent to the creek. The population of Franklin Township is approximately 3,000 people. Residents in the area obtain potable water from private wells; however, no drinking water wells near the site have been contaminated.

In the 1940s, several companies used the 8-acre site to manufacture pesticides. The property was most recently used as a residence, and was purchased in 1992 by Atochem North America, Inc. (now called Arkema). When the site was first identified, several buildings, including a mill dating to 1827, were present on the site. Various drummed chemicals, as well as uncontained asbestos, were present. Now the site is vacant except for the ground water treatment system. The privately owned portion of the site is fenced and a recreational trail that runs through the site is open to the public.

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

Threat and Contaminants

Highly elevated levels of contamination, including various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and pesticides, have been identified in ground water; however, potable wells have not been impacted. Prior to their removal from the site, buildings were contaminated with pesticides. Contaminants that have been detected in the soil include pesticides, semivolatiles organic compounds, metals (especially arsenic), and dioxins. Pesticides were also detected in on-site surface spring water samples, and part of the adjacent wetland soils were contaminated with DDT and arsenic. Prior to the conduct of the remedial action, trespassers on the site could have come in contact with or accidentally ingested contaminants. DDT also posed a substantial environmental threat.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remediation focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1984, EPA removed visibly contaminated material for off-site disposal, including contaminated soil, drummed wastes, asbestos and debris. EPA installed a fence around the most highly contaminated areas in 1987 and posted warning signs at the perimeter of the site.

Entire Site: EPA completed a study of the nature and extent of contamination at the site in 1989. Based on the results of that study, in September 1990 EPA selected a remedy to address contaminated soil, sediments, buildings, and ground water. The multi-part remedy consisted of excavating soils and sediments, treating organic-contaminated soil by chemical dechlorination coupled with soil washing to remove inorganic contaminants, and backfilling the treated soil on site. The ground water remedy includes an extraction and treatment system to capture migrating contaminants. As a part of the remedy, ground water is being monitored to ensure it does not affect potable wells in the area, which are also being tested periodically as a precaution. The remedy also called for on-site buildings to be decontaminated or

dismantled.

EPA entered into a Consent Decree with Atochem North America, Inc. (now called Arkema) in February 1992, to implement the selected remedy under EPA supervision. Arkema has performed work as required by the Consent Decree.

Buildings: Arkema dismantled the on-site buildings in late 1997. Because of the deterioration of the 1827 mill, it was not possible to preserve the entire structure. Working with the National Park Service and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Arkema documented past use of the mill and property through photographs and architectural drawings to create a permanent record before the buildings were removed. Arkema was able to decontaminate and preserve the stone foundation of the historic mill.

Soil and Sediment: Arkema performed additional sampling to refine the extent of soil and sediment contamination, and performed a number of treatability studies to analyze various technologies to treat site soils. Satisfactory results were found using a combination of low-temperature thermal treatment and chemical dechlorination for treating pesticides, dioxins, and other organics, however, soil washing treatment to remove arsenic was not successful. Because on-site treatment was not feasible, in July 2000 EPA amended the soil and sediment remedy to include excavation of contaminated soil and sediment to the depth of the water table and off-site disposal of the contaminated material. Field work for this portion of the remedial action began in spring 2003 and was completed in June 2005.

Ground Water: A ground water extraction and treatment system has been installed which captures migrating contaminants and reintroduces treated water into the ground. This system is reducing the concentrations of contamination and preventing migration of contaminants off-site. No residential wells have been affected, but they are sampled regularly to ensure that they remain safe. The treatment system has been placed in a building constructed on the old mill foundation, and Arkema worked closely with neighbors to make the building fit aesthetically into the neighborhood.

The ground water treatment system has been in operation since October 1999. An evaluation of the system performance was prepared in July 2005, and in September 2005 EPA selected a final remedy for the ground water. The final remedy consists of the continuation of the existing ground water treatment system, with periodic review. Modifications to the system will be made, as necessary and appropriate.

Cleanup Progress

The removal of drummed wastes, asbestos, contaminated soil and debris, and the installation of a fence greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated materials at the Myers Property site while further cleanup activities were being planned and implemented.

The building remediation was completed in January 1998, removing five buildings and miscellaneous surface debris. The soil/sediment portion of the remedy was completed in June 2005. A total 22,190 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment were excavated and disposed of off-site at approved landfills. The ground water treatment plant began operating in October 1999, and a final ground water treatment plan, consisting of the continuation of the existing treatment system with periodic review, was selected in September 2005.

Because all construction activities at the site are complete, a Preliminary Close Out Report for the site was signed in September 2005. A five-year review of the remedy will be completed by May 2008, which is five years after the start of the soil and sediment portion of the remedy. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. Additional five-year reviews will be conducted, as necessary.

Site Repositories

North County Branch Library, 65 Halstead Street, Clinton, New Jersey U.S. EPA Records Center, Region 2, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor