

Atlantic Resources

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD981558430

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 06

Middlesex
Sayreville

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 9/25/2001
Final Date: 9/5/2002

Site Description

The Atlantic Resources site is a 4.5-acre property located in Sayreville, New Jersey, near the Raritan River. The Atlantic Resources Corporation facility was a precious metals recovery operation. Gold and silver were recovered by incineration and smelting, or acid etching, from fly ash, x-ray and photographic film, circuit boards, building material and other waste materials. Waste solvents were also accepted for use as fuel in the incinerators. The Atlantic Resource site first came to EPA's attention in 1981, when a brush fire at the adjoining Horseshoe Road site exposed approximately 70 partially filled drums containing acetonitrile, silver cyanide and ethyl acetate. The Atlantic Resources Corporation owned and operated the facility from 1972 until it filed for bankruptcy in 1985. Operations at the site go back to the late 30s, as indicated by historical aerial photography.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal, State, and Responsible Party actions.

Threat and Contaminants

In 1989, the EPA analyzed the site soils and found that the soils contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs, base-neutral compounds, heavy metals, pesticides, dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The sediments and surface water on-site are contaminated with VOCs, heavy metals and pesticides.

The site contains wetland areas, and there are additional off-site wetlands that have been contaminated by the site. People who come in contact with or ingest contaminated soils, or sediments may face a health risk

Cleanup Approach

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

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In March 1987, EPA used Superfund emergency funds to perform a removal action at the Atlantic Resources Site. EPA removed acids from leaking vats, cleaned up mercury spills, and segregated for off-site disposal, hazardous substances found on-site. Hazardous substances disposed of off-site included 152 drums, 5,550 gallons of combustible liquids, 70 pounds of Mercury, 520 cubic yards of contaminated debris, and 15 gas cylinders. In 1996 and 1999, EPA performed further removal activities, including the posting of warning signs and removal of ash contaminated with dioxin and metals, as well as surface debris.

Entire Site: In July 1997, EPA initiated a remedial investigation that included both the Atlantic Resources and the Horseshoe Road sites, to determine the nature and extent of contamination remaining. The final remedial investigation report was submitted in May 1999, and the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment was completed in October 1999. Based on these documents, EPA determined that some additional data was needed to determine the extent of the site's impacts to the marsh and river. In addition, EPA determined that removing the buildings from both sites was a necessary first step toward addressing the sites. In September 1999, a Focused Feasibility Study was completed, and a Proposed Plan that recommended demolishing the buildings was presented to the public in December of that year. EPA issued a Record of Decision in September 2000. The demolition of the buildings on the Horseshoe Road Site was completed in April 2001. In May 2003, with EPA oversight, a group of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) completed demolition of the buildings and structures on the Atlantic Resources Site. In June 2004, after additional feasibility study work was completed, EPA presented a Proposed Plan to address the site soils and ground water (Operable Unit 2). The Operable

Unit 2 Proposed plan included excavation and offsite removal of contaminated surface soils, and deeper soils that act as source material for groundwater contamination. The Record of Decision for Operable Unit 2 was signed in September 2004. In, September 2006 EPA signed an agreement with the PRPs to design and implement the Operable Unit 2 remedy. In October 2003, EPA entered into an agreement with the PRPs to perform an Ecological Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study to address sediments in the adjacent marsh and river. EPA expects to complete the Feasibility study in early 2008

Site Facts: In 1995 EPA placed the Horseshoe Road site, which included the Atlantic Resource Facility, on the National Priorities List (NPL) . In response to a lawsuit by the Potentially Responsible Parties for the Atlantic Resources portion of the site, EPA separated the Atlantic Resource area from the NPL listing. After completion of the joint remedial investigation, EPA concluded that the Atlantic Resources area should be proposed as a separate NPL site. The site was proposed to the NPL on September 25, 2001, and formally listed on September 5, 2002.

Cleanup Progress

EPA cleaned up dioxin and mercury spills, emptied and disposed of materials found in numerous tanks and vats throughout the site, and excavated and disposed of contaminated soils and debris. The demolition and removal of buildings, on-site structures, was completed in May 2003. EPA signed an agreement with a group of potentially responsible parties to perform the design of the soil and groundwater cleanup in September 2006. The Record of Decision for the third phase is expected to be completed in the end of 2007, and will address sediments in the marsh and river.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-4308

Sayreville Public Library 1050 Washington Road Parlin, NJ 08872 (212) 727-0212