

LI Tungsten Corporation

New York

EPA ID#: NYD986882660

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 05

Nassau
Glen Cove

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 7/1/1991

Final Date: 10/14/1992

Site Description

The Li Tungsten Superfund Site is comprised of the former Li Tungsten facility, the Captain's Cove property where some of the facility's wastes were disposed of, and Glen Cove Creek where contaminated slag from facility operations came to be located.

The former facility is located at 63 Herhill Road in the City of Glen Cove. The property is 26 acres and consists of three separate parcels. The main operations were conducted on the parcel bordered by Glen Cove Creek to the south and Herhill Road to the north and a second parcel to the west of Dickson Lane. The remaining parcel is bordered by Herhill Road on the south and Dickson Lane on the west. The facility was owned from the 1940's to approximately 1984 by the Wah Chang Smelting and Refining Company and operated by a succession of entities, including Teledyne Inc. and the Li Tungsten Corp. Operations generally involved the processing of ore and scrap tungsten concentrates to metal tungsten powder and tungsten carbide powder, although other specialty metal products were also produced. The property was acquired by Glen Cove Development Corporation (GCDC) in 1984 and leased to the Li Tungsten Corporation, which declared bankruptcy in 1985.

The 23-acre Captain's Cove property is bounded by Hempstead Harbor to the west, Garvies Point Preserve to the north, the Glen Cove Anglers' Club to the east, and Glen Cove Creek to the south. A four-acre wetland makes up a portion of the property's southern boundary with the Creek. The property has been used as a dumpsite for a variety of wastes, including the disposal of spent ore residuals by the operators of the former Li Tungsten facility.

Glen Cove Creek is located in the City of Glen Cove on the north shore of Long Island. The creek has been channelized to serve as a 1.0 mile federal navigation channel and is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers, extending from Hempstead Harbor easterly to the head of navigation at Charles Street near the municipal center of Glen Cove. During routine maintenance dredging by the Army Corps in 2001, the discovery that radioactive materials were present in Glen Cove Creek caused the dredging program to be indefinitely suspended and led to the inclusion of the creek as part of the Li Tungsten Superfund Site.

The City of Glen Cove, which has undertaken an ambitious waterfront revitalization effort along Glen Cove Creek, received a Brownfields pilot grant from EPA in 1997 and the following year was designated a Brownfields Showcase Community by EPA, which resulted in additional financial and technical assistance from several federal agencies for the waterfront revitalization effort, including the Army Corps of Engineers. The City's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has also purchased the Li Tungsten and Captain's Cove properties to facilitate the ongoing revitalization efforts. The City signed a land development agreement in 2003 with Glen Isle Developers to develop the properties along the Creek that are owned by the IDA.

Site Responsibility: This Site is presently being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party actions

Threat and Contaminants

Low-level radiation and heavy metals contamination in soil, slag and ore residuals pose a threat to present and hypothetical future users of the Site. Presently, perimeter fencing and warning signs limit access to the Li Tungsten and Captain's Cove properties. The most serious threats posed by the Site were addressed by the emergency removal actions described below.

Cleanup Approach

This Site is being addressed in two stages: emergency actions and long-term remedial actions which have focused on comprehensive site cleanup.

Response Action Status

Emergency Actions: From 1989 to 1990, EPA ordered and supervised a removal action conducted by the GCDC. The most serious chemical/radiological hazards at the Site were identified and removed offsite for treatment and/or disposal. These materials included various radioactive substances, laboratory chemicals, PCB-contaminated wastes, and elemental mercury from a spill. EPA performed a second removal action to address the contents of approximately 270 chemical storage tanks from 1996 to 1998. As part of the second removal action, EPA razed two buildings that contained large numbers of tanks, due to their structural instability.

Comprehensive Remedial Actions: EPA initiated a remedial investigation of the Li Tungsten property in 1993. EPA also performed some interim remedial activities to improve site conditions e.g., removal of debris and asbestos, collection/staging of ores and slag, stabilization of collapsing structures, etc. After determining that Captain's Cove was used as a disposal area by the Li Tungsten operators, EPA initiated a focused feasibility study at Captain's Cove. This work was performed in coordination with the State of New York's response under the State Superfund program in regard to other chemical contamination at Captain's Cove, and completed in July 1999.

EPA selected long-term remedial actions in its 1999 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site, including excavation and off-site disposal of ore residuals, soil and sediments contaminated with heavy metals and radionuclides. As part of the long-term remedial action, EPA and TDY (a potentially responsible party (PRP), under EPA's direction) have completed all required excavation work on the Li Tungsten property. The decontamination of the Dickson Warehouse was completed in Summer 2008. At Captain's Cove, EPA completed the remedy by Fall 2005 through excavation and disposal of 120,000 tons of contaminated soil and ore residuals.

The Army Corps dredged Glen Cove Creek in 2000/2001 utilizing part of the Li Tungsten property to dewater dredged sediment. The discovery of radioactivity in some of the dredged sediment resulted in the indefinite suspension of the dredging program. In August 2001, EPA ordered some of the Li Tungsten PRPs to remediate the radioactive materials in the dredged sediments. The responding PRPs have complied with this order and the remediation was completed in July 2002. After performing a focused feasibility study, EPA issued a ROD in March 2005 describing its selected remedy to address radioactive slag remaining in Glen Cove Creek. The remedial action commenced in October 2006 and was completed in Spring 2008.

Cleanup Progress

The completion of the removal actions in 1990 and 1998 have resulted in the removal of the most hazardous materials from the Site, thereby eliminating immediate threats to nearby residents and the environment. The completion of all substantive site remediation by Summer 2008 represents major advance in the effort to return the Li Tungsten Superfund site to productive use as part of the City's waterfront revitalization. EPA has also successfully recovered most of its remediation costs through settlements with the site PRPS. EPA is currently overseeing the PRPs' implementation of a five-year groundwater monitoring plan, as part of post-remedial activities.

Site Repositories

Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866