
EPA Proposes Cleanup for Industrial Area at DuPont

Chemours – Former DuPont Facility

East Chicago, Indiana

November 2017

Public participation

EPA invites you to comment on the proposed Industrial Area cleanup plan from Nov. 27 until Jan. 26, 2018. EPA will also hold a public meeting on Jan. 10, at the Pastrick Branch Library, 1008 W. Chicago Ave, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm to present the proposed cleanup plan, answer questions and accept oral comments.

For information on community participation or the public meeting, please contact **Rafael P. Gonzalez**, EPA community involvement coordinator, at 312-886-0269 or rafaelp.gonzalez@epa.gov.

EPA will respond to comments, select a final cleanup plan and publish a “Final Decision with Response to Comments”

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EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431,
weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information

You may see site-related documents at the East Chicago Public Library’s Pastrick Branch, 1008 W. Chicago Ave., and at EPA’s regional office, 7th Floor Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, or visit <https://www.epa.gov/in/hazardous-waste-cleanup-dupont-facility-east-chicago-indiana>

Under a proposed cleanup plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will require cleanup of metal-contaminated soil and groundwater at the former DuPont East Chicago facility. Through its investigations, DuPont found that releases from its former industrial processes and waste management practices had contaminated soil and groundwater throughout the industrial portion of the site. “Groundwater” is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water.

The entire DuPont facility is about 440 acres. The western portion of the facility contains a solid-waste landfill, former industrial property available for light industrial redevelopment, and leased industrial property. The eastern portion contains the 172-acre Natural Area and adjacent 23-acre Buffer Zone. The Natural and Buffer Zone areas were cleaned up under a separate corrective action decision document and a long-term monitoring program in 2014.

EPA’s proposed plan for the western portion of the industrial area requires cleanup of the remaining contamination. The work will be done under the legal authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA. RCRA requires public participation in the cleanup process, so EPA has set a public comment period (*see box, left*). This fact sheet provides background on the site and describes the proposed cleanup plan. The full plan is available at the East Chicago Public Library’s Pastrick Branch.

Proposed cleanup plan

Results from investigations indicate arsenic, lead, zinc and cadmium are the primary pollutants in the soil ranging from the surface to 10-foot deep. Arsenic is the primary contaminant in the groundwater.

After evaluating all the proposed alternatives, EPA proposes the following cleanup steps to manage contaminated soil and groundwater at the DuPont East Chicago facility:

- *Soil - A permeable soil cover and source-area soil excavation with on-site management.*

Removal of 61,780 cubic yards of metal-contaminated soil and replacement with clean soil. Placement of a 1-foot-thick permeable soil cover in addition to maintaining other existing barriers such as asphalt (parking lot) or concrete (building foundations, etc.) to reduce risks to both human health and wildlife.

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- *Groundwater – In-situ (in-place) chemical fixation via sulfate reduction injections and a bio-wall trench.*
Addition of sulfate into the groundwater to prevent the movement of arsenic-contaminated groundwater off-site at both the northern and southern ends of the facility.
- *Institutional Controls – Maintenance of institutional controls ensures the site's land use remains consistent with the cleanup goals.*
The site owner will maintain controls including compliance with industrial zoning, a security fence, and compliance with permit health and safety requirements for digging or other kinds of intrusive activity. In addition, deed restrictions will be put in place to prevent nonindustrial use of the property inconsistent with the cleanup plan, the installation of on-site drinking water wells and to notify any future workers or developers of the potential for vapor intrusion risks in new buildings.
- *Financial Assurance - Provide funds to complete the cleanup including long-term operation maintenance and monitoring.*
The total estimated cost of EPA's proposed remedy is about \$22.6 million. The site owner is required to provide financial assurance to verify the proposed cleanup can be implemented over its expected lifetime of at least 30 years.
- *Five-Year Remedy Reviews - Implemented to make sure the selected remedy is working effectively and make adjustments if needed.*
- *Enter into Corrective Action Implementation Order – ensure compliance with cleanup plan.*

Site history

Chemours owns the former DuPont manufacturing facility located at 5215 Kennedy Avenue in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana. In February 2015, the DuPont facility was transferred from DuPont to Chemours, a new wholly-owned subsidiary of DuPont, because of a corporate reorganization.

The property is bounded to the south by the East Branch of the Grand Calumet River, to the east and north by residential and commercial areas, and to the west by an industrial area.

Development of the East Chicago property was largely confined to its western portion. The southern section of the developed area was used for chemical manufacturing, while the northwestern section and northeastern edge of the site were used for waste management. Most of the previously active manufacturing areas have been decommissioned and the production facilities removed. The exception is the 30-acre southwest corner of the site where industrial facilities continue to operate under a lease to a separate owner. This leased area is included in this cleanup.

A comprehensive evaluation of soil and groundwater conditions at the facility has already been performed as part of the corrective action process under RCRA. In 1997, EPA issued an Administrative Order on Consent for the site. The order specified DuPont conduct a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), to determine the nature and extent of any releases of hazardous waste from the facility.

The company was also required to implement interim remedial measures where necessary and submit a corrective measures study to identify and evaluate cleanup alternatives.