

# FORMER HENKEL CORPORATION SITE CARLSTADT, NEW JERSEY

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#### **AUGUST 2023**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on a proposal to approve a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste cleanup and disposal request submitted on behalf of Russo Meadowlands Park, LLC (Russo) for the former Henkel Corporation site located at 651 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Carlstadt, Bergen County, New Jersey. The plan will allow for redevelopment at the site.

EPA's PCB Cleanup and Disposal Program, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), focuses on cleaning up PCB-contaminated sites so that they can be returned to beneficial use.

## The Proposed Approval

EPA is proposing to approve a plan from Russo to manage PCB-contaminated soil and groundwater onsite.

As part of planned site redevelopment, Russo will dig up the existing site cap, regrade the site, and install a new cap. Russo will also relocate a pond that holds stormwater and a plant that treats groundwater, clean up and/or monitor the groundwater, and maintain and monitor the new cap. Once the redevelopment is completed, Russo will remove the existing deed restriction noting the presence of PCBs onsite and will replace it with a new deed restriction reflecting the allowable land uses after the redevelopment of the site.

What are Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)? PCBs are organic chlorine compounds used in various commercial and industrial products. They have a range of toxicity and vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids.



# **Get Involved!**

EPA's proposed approval is available for public comment from **August 16**, **2023 through September 15**, **2023**. This 30-day public comment period allows the public to participate in and contribute to site cleanup decisions by providing EPA with comments. EPA will also consider requests to hold a public meeting. Comments are being accepted on the draft EPA approval, not the supporting documents. To provide comments to EPA:

- Read the proposed approval and related documents at <a href="https://www.epa.gov/nj/public-notice-risk-based-disposal-polychlorinated-biphenyl-pcb-remediation-waste-former-henkel">https://www.epa.gov/nj/public-notice-risk-based-disposal-polychlorinated-biphenyl-pcb-remediation-waste-former-henkel</a>. You can also find all the documents at the information repository listed below.
- Submit written comments to EPA by email at <a href="mailto:everett.adolph@epa.gov">everett.adolph@epa.gov</a> or standard mail at the address below:

Adolph Everett

Chief, Land and Redevelopment Programs Branch U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 290 Broadway, 25th Floor New York, NY 10007

EPA must receive your comments online or in an envelope postmarked by **September 15, 2023**. EPA will consider comments submitted during the comment period before making a final decision. If EPA issues a final approval, Russo must accept the provisions of the approval in writing. Site cleanup activities will follow.

# Site Background

The Former Henkel Corporation site is bounded by residential neighborhoods, industrial facilities, and the Meadowlands Sports Complex (MetLife Stadium and Meadowlands racetrack).

The former Henkel site has a significant history of manufacturing. From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site was used to produce chemicals by several companies and calcium sulfate, zinc oxides, and elemental sulfur waste was stored in the on-site lagoons and ponds until the mid-1970s. Because of these practices, soil on-site contained high levels of multiple contaminants including PCBs.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has overseen Henkel's cleanup activities since Henkel purchased the site in 1987. Henkel excavated and stabilized on-site soil, installed a site cap, and constructed a groundwater pump and treat system. In 2003, NJDEP designated a Classification Exception Area (CEA) for the site, which restricts groundwater use within an area that does not meet groundwater standards and requires monitoring and long-term maintenance.

# **Information Repositories**

Copies of the application and the EPA proposed approval are available at the locations below.

#### **Carlstadt Public Library**

420 Hackensack St Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072

#### U.S. EPA Region 2 (by appointment only)

290 Broadway, 25th Floor New York, NY, 10007-1866

You may also access the relevant documents on EPA's webpage: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/nj/public-notice-risk-based-disposal-polychlorinated-biphenyl-pcb-remediation-waste-former-henkel">https://www.epa.gov/nj/public-notice-risk-based-disposal-polychlorinated-biphenyl-pcb-remediation-waste-former-henkel</a>

### **EPA Contact Information**

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https://www.epa.gov/nj/public-notice-risk-based-disposal-polychlorinated-biphenyl-pcb-remediation-waste-former-henkel

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