



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 3

FINAL DECISION AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

FORMER UNION SWITCH AND SIGNAL DIVISION  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
EPA ID# PAD000001115

I. PURPOSE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRTC) selecting the Final Remedy for soil and groundwater contamination (Final Remedy) at the Former Union Switch and Signal Division Facility (Facility) located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The EPA is issuing this FDRTC under the authority of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, 42 U.S.C. Sections 6901, et seq. (RCRA).

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On August 23, 2024, the EPA proposed a remedy of maintenance of a cap, installation of building vapor mitigation systems, implementation of a Materials Management Plan (MMP), and the implementation of land use restrictions. Consistent with public participation provisions under RCRA, the EPA requested comments from the public on the proposed remedy as described in the Statement of Basis (SB). The commencement of a thirty (30)-day public comment period was announced in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* newspaper and on the EPA Region 3 website. The public comment period ended on September 22, 2024.

The EPA received no comments on the proposed remedy. Consequently, the EPA's Final Remedy is unchanged from the proposed remedy. The SB is incorporated by reference into this FDRTC as Attachment A.

## III. FINAL REMEDY

The EPA has determined that corrective measures are necessary at the Facility to address residual contamination in soil and groundwater. The EPA's Final Remedy for the Facility consists of the following components:

1. For groundwater: Facility related Constituents of Concern (COCs) in groundwater have attained maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) promulgated pursuant to Section 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f et seq. of the Safe Drinking Water Act and codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 141 and no additional corrective measures are necessary. While the EPA is not requiring any additional corrective measures for groundwater, the EPA acknowledges that the owners of the Facility properties intend to prohibit the use of groundwater at the Facility for any purpose other than to conduct required monitoring activities.

For soils: compliance with and maintenance of land use restrictions at the Facility property as described in the AULs section below; and

1. For indoor air: Future residential use buildings/structures will incorporate a passive vapor barrier unless it can be demonstrated to the EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) that soil gas concentrations will not pose a threat to human health and/or the environment and the EPA and PADEP provides prior written approval. Future penetrations of the floor or vapor barrier of any such buildings or structures will be repaired with materials of similar permeability in accordance with an EPA and PADEP approved Post Remediation Care Plan (PRCP).

### **Activity and Use Limitations (AULs)**

The EPA has determined that the following AULs are necessary to protect the integrity of the Final Remedy:

Area 1 and 2:

1. Contractors working on the Facility property that could disturb subsurface strata and soil will operate in accordance with an EPA and PADEP approved MMP.

Area 3:

1. Contractors working within the property that could disturb subsurface strata and soil will operate in accordance with an EPA and PADEP approved MMP; and
2. If residential development occurs, surface caps in the area shown on Figure 5 will be inspected and maintained, in accordance with an EPA and PADEP approved PRCP, to prevent direct-contact exposure.

The EPA's preferred instrument to implement the components of the Final Remedy and ensure that the current and any future landowners comply with the restrictions is an Environmental Covenant prepared under Pennsylvania's Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, 27 Pa. C.S. §§ 6501 et seq. (UECA). These restrictions may also be implemented by an EPA permit or order.

## **IV. DECLARATION**

Final Decision and Response to Comments

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Based on the Administrative Record compiled for the Corrective Action at the Former Union Switch and Signal Division Facility, the EPA has determined that the Final Remedy selected in this Final Decision and Response to Comments is protective of human health and the environment.

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David Campbell, Director  
Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division  
U.S EPA Region 3

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Date

Attachment A: Statement of Basis, EPA, August 2024

## Attachment A