



Greenwood Chemical Superfund Site Removal Action

Greenwood, Albemarle County, Virginia



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 3

AUGUST 2004

New Activity at the Greenwood Chemical Site...

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will remove potentially hazardous chemicals from the Greenwood Chemical Superfund Site ("site") located on State Rte 690 in Greenwood, Virginia.

In June 2004, EPA began short-term removal activities, in addition to the on-going long-term cleanup efforts, to address some of the remaining materials left on-site. The additional removal activity is expected to be completed by the end of 2004.

Removal actions will include:

- Disposing of remaining laboratory chemicals,
- Removing old disposal lagoons,
- Removing contaminated and potentially-contaminated surface soil, and
- Replacing soil with clean fill.



What you may notice...

Workers may be wearing protective clothing such as, coveralls, hardhats, gloves, and air masks. Air masks may be worn to protect workers from breathing onsite dust during soil removal work. You may see heavy equipment, such as trucks, traveling on and off site to remove contaminated soils and carry in clean fill. EPA uses protective measures, such as water spraying, to help keep dust from moving off site or off the trucks. Heavy trucks will be traveling up Newtown Rd. We are working to ensure the safety of the residents in the area by restricting the times the trucks will be traveling and their speed. The Virginia Department of Transportation has mowed the roadside for increased visibility, the School Boards have been notified, as have the county police. Please continue to drive carefully during this project and talk to your children about the trucks. We anticipate truck traffic to start the week of September 7-10th and continue for 2-3 months.

Why and What are we Cleaning Up...

Various containers with old lab chemicals still exist onsite and will be removed and properly disposed. The containers are sealed, however they contain chemicals with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-VOCs, which may be health hazards.

Trace amounts of these lab chemicals have been found, as well as elevated amounts of arsenic and cyanide, in the lagoon sludge. Inorganic arsenic has also been detected in the surface soil onsite.

Health studies have shown that both cyanide and arsenic are hazardous substances. Because these materials are a potential risk to human health and the environment, EPA will close the lagoons by first draining the water, then excavating the sludge and replacing it with clean fill. EPA will also remove surface soils that will be replaced with clean fill.

For more information on health risks associated with these chemicals, visit the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov

Background...

- The Greenwood Chemical Superfund Site is an 18-acre site which produced chemicals for industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and photographic processes from the 1940s until 1985.
- In 1986, several deteriorated drums, both at the surface and buried, were identified along with waste water treatment and disposal lagoons.
- Over 600 drums were removed and long-term cleanup efforts began with the construction of an on-site surface water and groundwater collection and treatment system.
- EPA has been and will continue to routinely perform sampling of nearby residential wells, which have remained clean to date.
- EPA continues to coordinate with the Virginia Department of Transportation, local schools system, and other local authorities to ensure the safety of local residents during the project.

For More Information...

If you have questions about this project, please contact:

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For more information on this site, please visit www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/VA/greenwood-chem/index.htm

For more information on health-related questions, please visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov