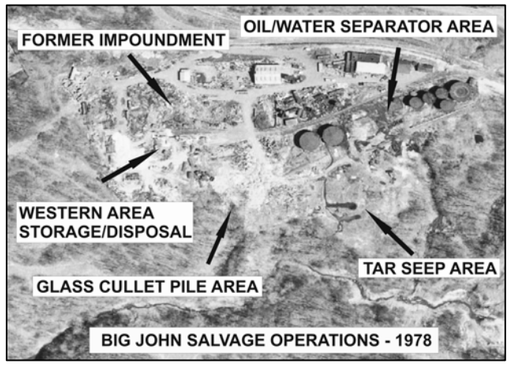


Brief Site Description

Big John Salvage Hoult Road Site is located on the east side of Fairmont, Marion County, on the east bank of the Monongahela River. It is approximately 38 acres in size.

The site was initially owned by Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation from 1932 to 1973. Reilly received crude tar primarily from the adjacent Fairmont Coke Works/ Sharon Steel facility. The crude tar was processed into creosote and tar products and sold. In January 1973, Reilly sold its Hoult Road property to Big John Salvage. Big John Salvage operated a salvage facility at the site until 1997. During its operation, Big John Salvage accepted various scrap and salvageable materials, as well as waste materials (including broken glass cullet) at the site. In 1997, the land was purchased by Steel Fabricators, Inc., and used only for timber operations.

Specific contaminants detected in the surface water, sediments, and soils resulted from historic site activities and include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, and naphthalene**;** inorganic compounds such as mercury, lead, cadmium and arsenic**;** semi-volatile compounds such as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**;** and other coal tar and creosote-type compounds.

EPA's Update on the Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
Carrie Deitzel, 3HS43
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa., 19103

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region III

Big John Salvage - Hoult Road Superfund Site

Fairmont, West Virginia

Cleanup and Site Investigation Continues at Superfund Site **September 2006**

What is Happening at the Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Superfund Site?

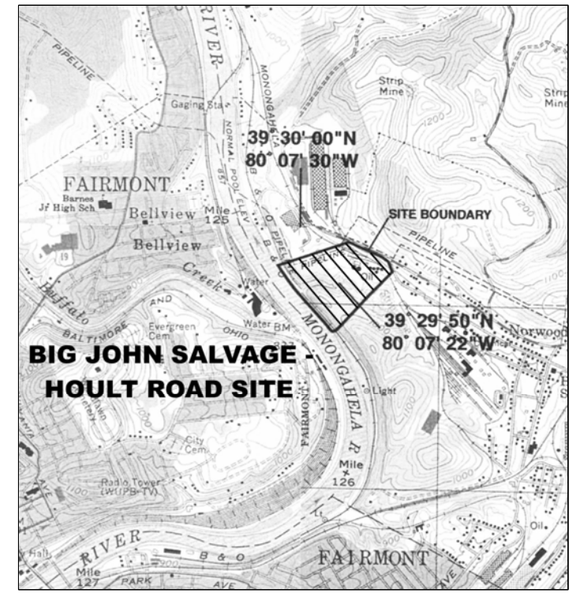
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the support of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), is currently conducting an investigation of the Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Superfund site in Fairmont, West Virginia (see site map). EPA will decide the level of cleanup needed and how it can best be achieved by completing a detailed Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site.

The RI will identify the type and extent of contamination present and describe the potential risks from those contaminants. The FS will evaluate engineering technologies that can be used to address the conditions identified by the RI. This fact sheet will provide a brief overview of site cleanup activities conducted to date, and describe the on-going RI/FS project.

Who is Doing the Work?

The Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2000. This made the property eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Federal Superfund program. The Superfund law authorizes EPA to pay for and conduct investigations and cleanups or to require companies that may have contributed to contamination at a site to pay for or conduct clean ups.

The Big John Salvage site is being addressed through short-term removal actions and long-term remedial studies. The removal actions completed to date were conducted either by the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) or by the EPA. These actions were conducted to reduce immediate risks presented by hazardous substances at the site.



Initially, various types of waste, including oily, tar-like deposits were excavated and removed from the site, and these actions significantly reduced the release of coal tar-like seeps, heavy metals and other contaminants to nearby surface waters, including the Monongahela River.

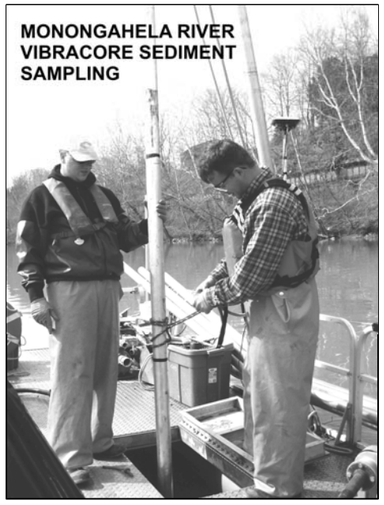
Additionally, a subsurface collection and treatment system was installed to capture oily, tar-like contamination moving in onsite tributaries; a sedimentation basin was repaired; surface water run-off was controlled; and other areas were stabilized so that hazardous materials no longer leave the site. This work was done to eliminate immediate threats to public health and the environment.

This short-term cleanup work was done primarily between 2000 and 2005; further, the oil collection and erosion control efforts at the site continue today.

EPA is currently conducting a Remedial Investigation (RI) and a Feasibility Study (FS). In February 2005, the EPA, in consultation with the WVDEP, approved the RI/FS work plan. The first phase of environmental sampling was completed in 2005, and additional sampling is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2006.

2005 Investigation Effort and Results

The field investigation included an assessment of surface and subsurface soils, as well as geology, hydrology, and on-site surface water and sediment. An assessment of Monongahela River sediment and surface water was also completed. The field team collected information from nearly 600 surface soil, subsurface soil, surface water, sediment, and ground-water samples as part of the 2005 investigation.



Some of the preliminary findings from the 2005 investigation include:

- The soil at the site contains a variety of organic and inorganic contaminants related to historic operations. Coal tar and other related wastes were observed in the soil throughout a large portion of the site at depths up to 20 feet below the surface.

- The shallow groundwater found in the overburden soil (less than 30 feet deep) is contaminated at several locations. However, very few contaminants were found in the deep bedrock groundwater (30-150 feet deep). There is no known commercial or residential groundwater use near the site.

- On-site sediments and surface water contain site-related contaminants. Sharon Steel Run, the stream into which the site drains, has been severely impacted by former site activities.

- Sediments in the Monongahela River, located downstream from the site, contain site-related contaminants. However, no contaminants of concern were detected at elevated levels in the river water.

- A human health risk assessment (HHRA) is underway. It is examining more than 50 potential scenarios through which humans may come into contact with site-related contaminants in the soil, surface water, sediment, ground water or the Monongahela River.

- A screening level ecological risk assessment (SLERA) indicates that contaminants in the soil, sediments, and surface water pose a potential ecological risk. Consequently, a baseline ecological risk assessment (BERA) will be performed to fully investigate the risks posed by the site to plants and animals.

Future Investigation Efforts

Based on the findings of the SLERA and initial HHRA, additional investigations are necessary to fully evaluate the potential human health and ecological risks posed by the site. Future investigations will include:

- Soil gas sampling to evaluate whether organic contaminants in the soil are vaporizing and could potentially pose a future risk to occupants in buildings that could be constructed at the site.

- Plant, earthworm, aquatic invertebrate, and fish sample collecting for laboratory analysis to investigate the presence of site-related contaminants in these organisms. These data will be used primarily for ecological risk assessment purposes. However, the fish data will also be used to assess the potential risks to fishermen who take fish from the Monongahela River to eat.

- Toxicity testing using earthworms, plants, aquatic invertebrates, and fish to evaluate whether the site soil, sediment, and surface water have an impact on plants and animals.

All of the information collected from the previous and future field investigations will be compiled in a detailed Remedial Investigation (RI) Report.

The RI report will identify the contaminants of concern, determine where those contaminants are located, and assess the potential risk the contaminants pose to people and the environment.

The draft RI report is expected to be submitted to EPA and WVDEP for review and comment in late 2006. When the report is completed, it will be made available for public review.

How Does EPA Select a Clean Up Plan?

Cleanup options will be developed and evaluated in the Feasibility Study (FS). The FS will establish objectives to address any unacceptable risks presented by contamination at the site. (For example, one objective will likely be to prevent contact with contaminated soil and sediment). All engineering options capable of meeting the objectives will be considered. Each potential cleanup option will be compared and contrasted against the following nine criteria:

1. Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment
2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
3. Long-term Effectiveness
4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment
5. Short-Term Effectiveness
6. Implementability
7. Cost Effectiveness
8. State Acceptance
9. Community Acceptance

The RI and FS conclusions will be used by EPA to develop a Proposed Plan that will summarize the data and identify the cleanup method EPA recommends for the site. The Proposed Plan will be presented to the public for review and comment. Release of the plan will open a 30-day public comment period, during which EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the site and the cleanup proposal.

After EPA and WVDEP fully consider public comments, EPA will issue an official Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will detail the selected cleanup option and provide the rationale upon which it was based. After the ROD is completed, the physical work needed to implement the cleanup, begin. EPA currently projects the ROD to be issued in 2008.

Big John Salvage Site Contacts

Information about the Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Site is available at the:

Marion County Public Library
321 Monroe Street, Fairmont, WV 26554
304-366-1210

Information is also available on EPA's website at:

http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/WVD054827944/index.htm

or by contacting:

United States Environmental Protection Agency
24-hour Superfund Hotline - (800) 553-2509

Leave a message or ask to be transferred to:

Carrie Deitzel – *Community Involvement Coordinator* --
ext.4-5525 - also available at 215-814-5525 or at deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

Eric Newman – *Remedial Project Manager* –
ext.4-3237 - also available at: 215-814-3237 or at newman.eric@epa.gov

WV Dept. of Environmental Protection

Thomas L. Bass - *Environmental Resource Specialist*
(304) 926-0499 x1274 or at TBASS@wvdep.org

JOIN THE MAILING LIST

If you would like your name added to the mailing list for information regarding the Big John Salvage-Hoult Road Site, please complete this form and mail it to:

Carrie Deitzel
Community Involvement Coordinator
USEPA
1650 Arch Street, 3HS43
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____