

Nepera Chemical Company, Inc.

New York

EPA ID#: NYD000511451

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 19

Orange
1.5 miles southwest of Maybrook

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/1/1984
Final Date: 6/1/1986

Site Description

The site is a 29.3-acre former industrial waste disposal facility located in the Town of Hamptonburgh, near the Village of Maybrook, in Orange County. It is in a rural, residential and agricultural area near the confluence of two streams, with wetlands nearby. The former wastewater lagoon area, containing six backfilled lagoons, occupies an area of about five acres. Currently, much of the site is wooded and the former lagoon area is fenced and covered with grasses. Between 1953 and 1967, the lagoons were used to dispose of approximately 50,000 gallons a day of wastewater from the Nepera chemical plant in Harriman, New York. The plant produced a variety of pharmaceutical and industrial chemicals, including pyridine-based compounds. State inspectors detected leaks from the lagoons in 1958 and 1960. Because of the State's continuing concern about the proper containment of the waste and the threat to a local well field, operations were discontinued in December 1967. By 1974, all of the lagoons had been backfilled with soil.

Approximately 6,500 people live within a 3-mile radius of the site. The closest residences are located approximately 250 feet to the west, and 175 feet and 450 feet to the northeast. These residences rely on private supply wells for drinking water. Monitoring of these residential wells is conducted on an ongoing basis for all site-related contaminants. Furthermore, three (3) public water supply wells owned by the Village of Maybrook, which lie approximately 800 feet north of the site, are monitored for site-related contaminants on a quarterly basis.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal, state, and potentially responsible party actions

Threat and Contaminants

A wide variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), as well as inorganic compounds and cyanide, have been found in the surface and subsurface soils in the former lagoon area. VOCs, SVOCs, and inorganic compounds have also been detected in groundwater monitoring wells at the site. People could potentially be harmed if they ingest or come into contact with contaminated groundwater or soils. As noted above, sampling groundwater from nearby residential wells continues to be conducted to determine if any site-related contaminants are present. In addition, the site is fenced thereby limiting potential for exposure to site-related, surface soil contamination.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: All lagoons were filled by 1974, and a fence was constructed to limit access to the site. Three drums were discovered during the remedial investigation (RI) test pit excavation during 1991 and these were removed and disposed of after analysis. A fence was installed around the five-acre lagoon area in 1995.

Entire Site: In 1988, under a State-issued order, the potentially responsible parties agreed to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (FS) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at and emanating from the site and to identify and evaluate remedial alternatives. Following the review of the initial RI results, a second phase RI was begun in 1993 to expand the ground-water investigation and also to address additional on-site and off-site concerns. Additional groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 2002 and groundwater monitoring samples were collected in 2002, 2003, and 2004. In addition, extensive soil sampling activities were conducted in 2002. A Final RI was

issued in March 2006. The final FS Report, addressing the subsurface and surface soil contamination and the groundwater contamination at the site, was issued in July 2007. A Record of Decision, which states the remedial actions to be taken at the site, was issued on September 28, 2007. The remedial actions involve excavation of all contaminated soils and subsequent treatment of these soils on-site. In addition, oxygenating compounds will be applied to contaminated groundwater to foster bioremediation of the contaminants.

Cleanup Progress

Filling the wastewater lagoons and restricting access via fencing on the Nepera Chemical site has limited potential exposure to the public, while further investigations leading to the selection of final cleanup remedies continue. The RI was completed in March 2006 and the FS was issued in July 2007. The Proposed Plan detailing the remedial alternatives for the site was released for public comment in July 2007 and the Record of Decision was issued on September 28, 2007. In October 2008, A Consent Decree was entered which requires the PRPs to perform all remedial activities. The PRPs have prepared detailed design documents for the performance of these remedial activities. Implementation of the remedial action is anticipated to be initiated in the spring of 2011.

Site Repositories

EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway-18 Floor, New York, NY 10007

Hamptonburgh Town Hall, 18 Bull Road, Cambell Hall, NY, 10916