

Fulton Terminals

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980593099

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 23

Oswego

Fulton

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/30/1982
Final Date: 9/8/1983

Site Description

Millions of gallons of waste oils and sludges were stored in tanks at the 1 1/2-acre Fulton Terminals site, which is now inactive. From 1936 to 1960, the primary activity on the site was the manufacturing of roofing materials, which involved the storage of asphalt in aboveground tanks and fuel oil storage in underground tanks. From 1972 to 1977, the site was used as a staging and storage area for materials scheduled for incineration at the Pollution Abatement Services site, which also is on the National Priorities List. From 1981 to 1983, Fulton Terminals removed several tanks as part of a voluntary cleanup program. These activities ceased in 1983, after the facility was fined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the improper disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls. The site, located in an urban area, has approximately 13,000 people living within 3 miles, is within 50 feet of the Oswego River, which is used for recreation.

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

Threat and Contaminants

The ground water, soil, and sediments were contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Trespassers on this fenced site faced potential health threats in the event that direct contact with the contaminated soil or ground water occurred. Local residents used a municipal water supply and, therefore, were not likely to come in contact with contaminants in the ground water.

Cleanup Approach

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

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: Actions conducted in 1986 by EPA and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) consisted of constructing a 7-foot perimeter fence around the site and posting warning signs, removing two aboveground tanks and two underground tanks, removing approximately 300 cubic yards of visibly-contaminated soil and tar-like wastes, and excavating storm drains that were acting as a conduit for contaminated runoff entering the Oswego River during storms. An additional removal action in 1990 involved the construction of earthen barriers for the prevention of surface runoff from the contaminated portion of the site.

Entire Site: In 1989, following the completion of a remedial investigation and feasibility study to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at and emanating from the site and to evaluate remedial alternatives, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed, selecting a remedy for the site. Actions selected by EPA for site cleanup include low temperature thermal extraction to remove VOC contaminants from the soils and the use of carbon adsorption to collect the pollutants from the ground water, followed by the reinjection of the treated water. The engineering design of the cleanup actions began in late 1991. Confirmatory sampling of the contaminated area conducted during the initial stages of the remedial design revealed additional VOC contamination in the silt and clay portion of the soil below the water table. Accordingly, the scope of the engineering design for the cleanup of the soil was expanded to include the contaminated silt and clay. The soil cleanup design was completed in March 1995. The cleanup of the contaminated soil, which commenced in April 1995, was completed in early March 1996. The engineering design for the cleanup of the ground water was completed in September 1994. After installing the ground water extraction wells, full-scale pumping and treatment of the ground water was performed through a temporary treatment system from February 1997 through May 1997. Subsequent geophysical

investigations indicated that the freeze wall (a construction process whereby the ground was frozen at depth to allow the dry excavation of contaminated soils below the water table) remained intact in one downgradient location. Following the forced thaw of the freeze wall (via steam injection) by the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) in May 1998, the temperature of the ground water and the concentrations of contaminants were monitored. Ground water samples collected in March 1999 indicated that the freeze wall was no longer intact (i.e. , monitoring wells were free of ice) and that the contamination in this location continued to show a decreasing trend. Following the collection of ground water quality samples in early September 1999, EPA determined that the ROD requirements for the ground water remedy had been substantially met, and no further response, other than long-term ground water monitoring, was anticipated. A Preliminary Close-Out Report for the site was issued on September 27, 1999.

The ground water long-term monitoring began in March 2000. After five years of monitoring, all of the monitoring wells, with the exception of one downgradient well, had met the cleanup standards. The ground water in this downgradient well continues to exceed the standard for one VOC. Monitoring of this well continues.

Five-year reviews are undertaken at sites to ensure that implemented remedies protect public health and the environment and that they function as intended by site decision documents. In September 2004, EPA issued a Five-Year Review Report, which concluded that the response actions implemented at the site are in accordance with the remedy selected by EPA and that the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. EPA conducted its second five-year review in June 2009. This five-year review made a similar conclusion.

Site Facts: In 1986, the PRPs signed a Consent Order requiring them to perform tank, waste, and contaminated soil removal activities. A Consent Decree was signed by the PRPs in 1990, in which they agreed to perform the site cleanup as directed by EPA. The Consent Decree was entered in U.S. District Court (approved by the Judge) in December 1991.

Cleanup Progress

Removing 480 tons of visibly-contaminated soil and tar-like wastes and excavating storm drains that were acting as a conduit for contaminated runoff entering the Oswego River during storms and restricting site access greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated runoff or hazardous materials from the site, pending the completion of final cleanup activities.

The cleanup of the 16,500 tons of contaminated soil has removed a sizable source of ground water and surface water contamination. The limited pumping and treatment of approximately 9,000,000 gallons of contaminated ground water reduced the VOCs in the core of the contaminated plume to below the ground water standards.

Site Repositories

Fulton Public Library, 160 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866