

# Chem Fab Superfund Site

March 2021



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Update on Clean Up

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing an update on the cleanup of the Chem Fab Superfund Site.

In the Spring of 2021 EPA plans to start construction work at the Chem Fab Site to build a groundwater treatment plant. The purpose of this project is to begin cleaning up the groundwater at the Site.

### Construction Work

During initial phases of work, the community should expect to see surveying, utility work, and temporary fencing installation. Once construction begins, expect to see heavy equipment such as dump trucks, excavators, dozers, skid steers, compaction rollers, cement trucks, and tractor trailers delivering equipment and materials. A mobile crane will also be used during erection of the pre-engineered metal building (the treatment plant). Some tree clearing may be required, but only those trees directly in the path of the new access road, the new building footprint, and the laydown yard. Tree trimming may be required to clear access for equipment. Asphalt paving equipment will be present to complete the access road.

### Work Schedule

The construction team's regular workdays will be from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Weekend workdays will be Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Site work will not typically be performed on Sunday.

### Delivery Route

Trucks delivering equipment and construction materials are expected to travel south along North Broad Street and turn right onto the Site at 400 N Broad Street.

### Construction Practices

Erosion control measures will be put into place during mobilization to protect the Cooks Run watershed from receiving excess sediment and to control stormwater runoff. These measures will include perimeter and interior controls, such as silt fencing and other filtering devices, will be used at the Site. Air monitoring will be conducted as needed and prevailing winds

### Virtual Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting

**March 30, 2021**

EPA is working with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and will participate in the upcoming virtual CAG meeting on

March 30, 2021

7:00 PM

Conference Line: (484) 352-3221

Conference Code: 888081069

The virtual meeting allows us to comply with current social distancing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other local, state, and federal health advice, while still providing the community with the opportunity to learn about the status of the cleanup of the Site.

As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority.

**To learn more about the Chem Fab Site, scan the QR Code with your smartphone or visit the website below:**

**[www.epa.gov/superfund/chemfab](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/chemfab)**



noted during construction activities. If dusty conditions are present, measures will be taken to reduce dust which may include the use of water trucks, shifting of work areas, and/or changing of tasks to reduce or eliminate dust generating activities. In the unlikely event that contaminated soils are encountered, air monitoring will be implemented, the soils segregated, and stockpiles covered to allow testing prior to being removed from the Site.

## The Community's Role

EPA invites the community members to attend the virtual community meeting on March 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM to learn about the cleanup of the Chem Fab Site and to learn about the potential impacts to the community during the construction of the treatment plant. Virtual CAG meeting details are as follows: Conference Line (484) 352-3221 and the Conference Code is 888081069.

## Site Location and Background

The Chem Fab Site is located in Doylestown Township and the Borough of Doylestown, Bucks County. The former Chem Fab property currently contains an office park with three buildings that host several commercial tenants.

The use of chlorinated solvents, such as trichloroethene (TCE), and metals such as hexavalent chromium by a former industrial facility that operated at the Site resulted in contamination of soil and groundwater.

EPA is taking response actions to address the contamination and protect human health and the environment.

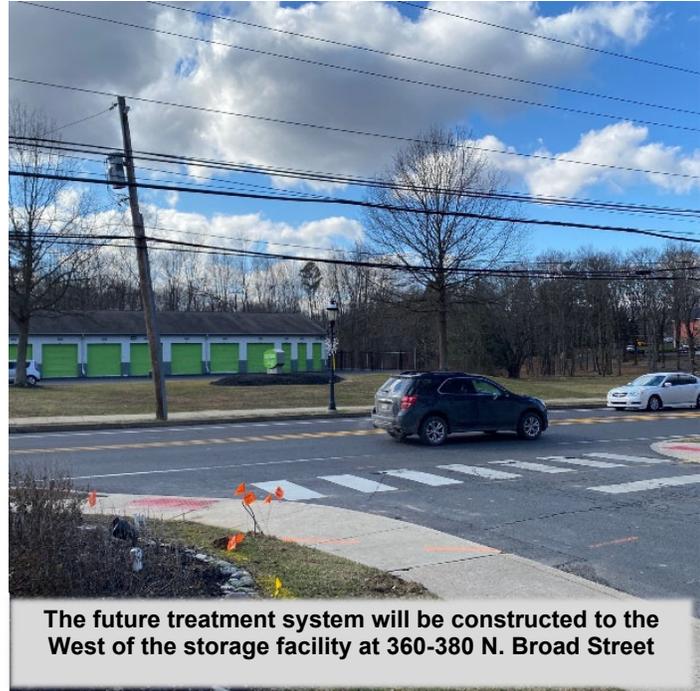
## Work at the Site

In 1987, groundwater contamination was discovered in private drinking water wells and a municipal well near the Chem Fab property.

As a result, EPA extended public water supply lines to provide clean drinking water to the affected residents and conducted other response actions to stabilize the Site.

In 2008, EPA listed the Chem Fab Site to the National Priorities List, making it eligible for long-term cleanup financed under the federal Superfund program. Since then, EPA has taken actions to address contaminated soils, vapor intrusion and conduct environmental investigations to determine the extent of contamination.

To address contaminated soils, EPA excavated contaminated soil, buried drums and other storage containers in an area adjacent to the former warehouse.



The future treatment system will be constructed to the West of the storage facility at 360-380 N. Broad Street



The facility will be built on the empty lot obscured by the tree line

## Addressing vapor intrusion

To address vapor intrusion within the former warehouse, EPA installed a sub slab depressurization (SSD) system. The SSD protects the workers in the office building by venting vapors outdoors using a series of fans and suction below the slab of the ground-level floor similar to a radon system.

## Addressing contaminated groundwater

The contaminated groundwater at the Site is found in bedrock, the solid rock that underlies gravel, soil, and other surface material. The bedrock at this Site, and commonly throughout Pennsylvania, is highly fractured, leading to complex movement of the contaminated groundwater.

In 2017, EPA issued an interim Record of Decision selecting a remedy to clean-up the groundwater in areas where the groundwater is highly contaminated. The Record of Decision which is EPA's clean-up plan includes the following treatment plan:

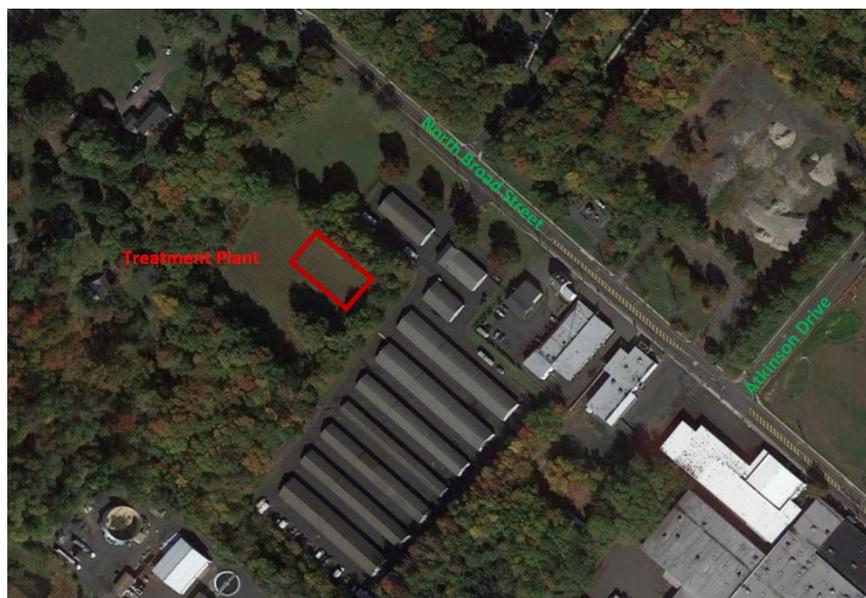
- 1) **Groundwater Treatment Plant** – Construct a treatment plant that will extract contaminated groundwater in the areas with the greatest contamination levels and prevent further contaminant movement from those areas.
- 2) **Treatment and Discharge of Treated Groundwater** – Groundwater will be treated to remove or destroy contaminants and the treated water will be discharged to meet permitted standards.
- 3) **Long-Term Monitoring** – EPA will continue to monitor the groundwater conditions at the Site in order to ensure the effectiveness of the treatment system.

## Current Risk Information

While EPA works on cleaning up the groundwater at the Chem Fab Site, there is no current risk from groundwater since residents rely on public water for drinking water or potable use. This project will ensure the long-term protection of groundwater resources for the Doylestown community.

### What is vapor intrusion?

Vapor intrusion is the migration of volatile chemicals from contaminated groundwater and soils into the indoor air spaces of buildings through openings in the building foundation. Vapors that accumulate in buildings could cause health risks or other safety concerns.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 3 Attn: Angela Ithier  
1650 Arch Street  
(Mail code 3RA22)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Address Label Here

For more information  
about the Chem Fab  
Superfund Site, please  
visit:

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For more information  
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Program:

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This Is Superfund: A  
Community Guide to  
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document/11/175197](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/11/175197)



### Questions about the Site? Contact us:

**Bob Stank**  
Remedial Project Manager  
215-814-2051  
stank.robert@epa.gov

**Angela Ithier**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
215-814-5248  
ithier.angela@epa.gov