

# Havertown PCP Superfund Site *Community Update*

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Haverford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania**

**November 2019**

## Issue

In January 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) were contacted by residents along Rittenhouse Circle who were experiencing wetter than normal conditions in their backyards and water in basements or crawl spaces. The residents were also concerned about potential contamination from the Havertown PCP Superfund Site.

## Purpose

This document summarizes the findings from the recent EPA and PADEP investigations that were conducted and the next steps to address the problems that were identified.

## Background

National Wood Preservers ran a wood treatment operation from 1947 to 1991. Due to the facility's methods of waste disposal, the property's soil and the groundwater were contaminated with chemicals used in the wood treating process. The contamination at the Site has been capped in place and groundwater is being captured and treated.

Between February and June 2019, EPA and PADEP conducted various tests and collected samples from residential sumps, soil and groundwater seeps in yards that were near the Havertown PCP Superfund Site.

EPA and DEP also halted the reinjection of clean treated water from the treatment plant into groundwater wells near the capped source area of the Site on North Eagle Road to determine if the groundwater wells were the cause of the elevated water table and wetter soil conditions in the area.

## Questions? Please Contact Us!

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## Current Status

Sampling results identified one or more Site contaminants in the soil and/or sump water (where present) for most of the residential properties that were tested. The types of contaminants detected include pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins, dieldrin and several inorganic elements, like manganese.

The contamination appears to have been transported from the groundwater into residential yards and structures between the YMCA and Rittenhouse Circle. This likely occurred when the water table was elevated and seeping out of the ground in 2018-2019.

The contaminants that were detected are **not** present in amounts that pose an emergency situation or immediate health threat. However, some of the contaminants **are** high enough to exceed EPA's cleanup standards for the Site and they can pose a health risk if people are in frequent contact with the contaminants over long periods of time (several decades).

The water table has been decreasing (falling further below the ground surface) over the past several months. Testing appears to indicate that precipitation has a much greater impact on the water table elevation than the Site groundwater wells.

Based on the investigations, EPA will use its Superfund authority to conduct a short term response to reduce the potential for exposure to the Site contaminants. This action will address residential property contamination and modify the groundwater collection system to capture increased water table conditions. Additional testing of more residential properties will be conducted to determine the extent of contamination.



Example of groundwater sampling and equipment near the Havertown PCP Superfund Site.



## Next Steps

EPA will be starting this response action in November 2019. Currently, about eight (8) residential properties require action. The entire response is tentatively scheduled to last about one year. Additional testing of other properties will be conducted starting in November 2019.

Initial activities will focus on:

- Making modifications to residences to prevent potentially contaminated groundwater from entering homes.
- Sealing of underground stormwater pipes that discharge to Naylor's Run.
- Preparing to expand the groundwater collection system that exists between the YMCA and Rittenhouse Circle. This work will likely start in late 2019 or early 2020. Updates for the existing groundwater treatment plant at 900 N. Eagle Road are also being developed to handle the additional water to be collected.
- Removal of contaminated soils from affected residential properties and then restoration of the properties.

EPA will continue to evaluate the factors that are influencing the groundwater and continue residential testing until the extent of impacts has been established.



Map of the Superfund Site and impacted areas.

## For More Information

Please feel free to contact one of the site team members (first page) with your questions or concerns. We welcome your feedback as well as suggestions for sharing information with the community.

For more information on the Havertown PCP Superfund Site, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/havertownpcp>

## Additional Resources

For more information about EPA's Superfund Program:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

This Is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/11/175197>

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