



REMOVAL

Ried Cleaners Site Great Barrington, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



INTRODUCTION

The Ried Cleaners Site is located at 218 Main Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. A dry-cleaning and laundromat business operated on the Site for approximately 54 years until it ceased operations in 2006. Currently, the Site has a one-story building which is now vacant and boarded up; a second one-story building was demolished in 2008. The remainder of the Site is mostly paved or covered with crushed gravel and sand and is used for overflow parking by the neighboring bank. Environmental investigations have found contaminants of concern in surface soils.

BACKGROUND

Historical research has shown that PCE (Perchloroethylene) was used as part of the dry-cleaning process for 54 years while the Site operated as a dry-cleaning business. The PCE was stored in underground storage tanks and leaked from those tanks to contaminate the soils beneath. Previous investigations also indicated that PCE from the dry-cleaning process may have moved into the soils via the floor drains present in the former onsite building.

EPA'S INVOLVEMENT

The previous owner, the state, and the town have spent considerable time and resources investigating the existing historical contamination. Their efforts included extensive investigation of the contamination, demolition of a building, and removal of four underground storage tanks and one above ground storage tank. In September 2019, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requested the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assistance. EPA conducted an environmental investigation in December 2019, and determined the need for additional cleanup of PCE contaminated soils.

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NEXT STEPS/WHAT TO EXPECT

The proposed actions will protect public health, welfare, and the environment by removing the hazardous substances from the accessible areas of the Site. The clean-up actions that EPA will be taking include the removal of vegetation and debris, excavation of contaminated soils, transportation and disposal of contaminated soils at an EPA approved off-site facility, and backfilling the excavated area.

Starting in early November 2020, as cleanup work begins, residents should expect to see personnel and heavy equipment working on or about the Site. Normal working hours will be between 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday. During the entire six to eight-week removal action, EPA will perform daily air monitoring and implement dust control and suppression for worker protection and public health, as needed. EPA estimates that approximately 40 trucks will be needed to transport and dispose the wastes generated from the Site. All wastes will be disposed of at EPA approved facilities. Before the disposal of the wastes begin, EPA will coordinate with the Town in selecting the safest traffic truck routes that also help to alleviate a potential increase in traffic.