



REMOVAL

Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Dartmouth, 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.



SITE HISTORY

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), since the summer of 2018, has been investigating historic dumping of waste material in the Bliss Corner neighborhood, located in the southern portion of Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

During the period beginning in September of 2019 and ending in June 2021, MassDEP and EPA sampled over 70 residential properties in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood. This sampling identified lead and polychlorinated biphenyls, better known as PCBs, as the main contaminants of concern.

In a letter dated August 23, 2021, MassDEP requested EPA support for a removal action at five residential properties in the Bliss Corner neighborhood where elevated levels of lead and/or PCBs have been identified in soil from 0-3 feet and which pose an imminent threat to human health and the environment. All five properties are occupied and potential exposure to hazardous substances in soil, specifically harmful levels of lead and PCBs, can occur through various common outdoor activities such as gardening, landscaping or small children playing in the soil.

NEXT STEPS

EPA will be on site in the Bliss Corner neighborhood beginning in June. In the weeks leading up to work, EPA and its contractors will begin establishing a staging area and a command post.

EPA worked with the Town of Dartmouth to secure the command post, and a private property owner to secure the staging area required to facilitate the cleanup work.

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- 247 Russells Mills Road is a town-owned parcel that will be used as the command post. EPA will use this location to manage the project and for staging clean materials, such as fill, gravel and topsoil, used to restore the properties. It will also house office trailers, store supplies and equipment and have vehicle parking. EPA will implement engineering controls, including covering the piles of clean materials, to control dust at this location. At the end of the cleanup, EPA will restore this property to its prior condition.
- A McCabe Street privately-owned property will be used for staging contaminated soil removed from the five residential properties, parking construction equipment and vehicles, and loading trucks with contaminated soil for transportation and off-site disposal. EPA will conduct air monitoring and use engineering controls including liners and covers to control dust and prevent migration of contaminated soil. At the end of the cleanup, EPA will restore this property with clean fill.

WHAT TO EXPECT

EPA is scheduled to begin removing contaminated soil from the five properties during the week of June 6, 2022. EPA is communicating directly with these residents, providing property-specific information and cleanup timelines. EPA and its contractors may be wearing protective clothing due to their direct contact with contaminated soil. Heavy equipment will be brought to the five properties EPA will remove contaminated soils and then back-fill the properties with clean soil. Work is expected to be completed during the summer or early fall of 2022. Working hours will be approximately Monday-Thursday 7 am to 5 pm. EPA will coordinate closely with the five property owners regarding the details of work specific to their properties. EPA will continue to update the neighborhood and local officials on progress at the site.