



## HAZARDOUS SITES CLEANUP PROGRAM FACT SHEET:

# REMACOR SITE



*March 2019*

### **Introduction**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”), Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program will be conducting an interim response action between March and July 2019 at the Remacor Site (“Site”), located in Taylor Township, Lawrence County. This Fact Sheet summarizes the status of Site investigations and on-going interim actions occurring at the Site.

### **Site Background**

The Remacor Site is a 45-acre industrial facility that was in operation from 1975 to 2006. The facility processed secondary magnesium scrap for use in the steel industry. The magnesium fines, turnings, and shavings used in the processing were ignitable. Several fires had occurred at the facility in the past. Former activities at the Site also involved the production of mischmetal which was used in

the steel industry and in the film-making industry for special effects. Mischmetal contains rare earth metals. Production of this material resulted in the formation of Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) as a waste product. Some of this material was buried on Site.

### **EPA Emergency Removal**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an emergency removal action on the Site in 2007. The combined efforts of 18 magnesium generators and EPA removed over 6.7 million pounds of magnesium material from the Site. Over 15 million pounds of various other waste materials were also removed from Site. Approximately 334,275 pounds of low level radioactive material were removed and safely disposed off-site.

## History of Investigation

Currently, the Site contains a vacant industrial complex with ten buildings, two ponds, and access roads. EPA, DEP, and sub-contractors conducted investigations of the Site between 2007 and 2015 to evaluate impacts to soils and groundwater. Additional surveys completed included a radiological contamination survey, a geophysical survey to identify subsurface issues, and a stormwater drain survey to evaluate discharge outfalls along the Beaver River. Results of Site investigations have identified soils and groundwater impacted with metals, volatile organic compounds, and radiological contaminants. The radiological contamination resulted from the processing and burial of radioactive materials on much of the Site.

A 2011 Building Engineering Survey determined that the ten remaining Site buildings are deteriorated, not economically reusable, and should be demolished. A 2015 Building Radiological Survey found elevated levels of radiological contamination inside several of the buildings. Additionally, due to the deteriorated condition of the buildings, contractors were unable to accurately characterize groundwater and soil contamination underneath and directly adjacent to unstable buildings. Lawrence County Commissioners and Taylor Township Supervisors have also expressed concerns over safety due to the deteriorated condition of the buildings and that they are an attractive nuisance to vandals and scrappers.

## Interim Response Action

DEP has contracted with Baker/O'Brien & Gere Remediation Solutions Joint Venture

of Moon Township, Pennsylvania to conduct the building demolition, removal, recycling, and offsite disposal of demolition wastes, various other wastes, and radiologically contaminated wastes. All work plans necessary to carefully and securely perform the work on Site have been approved by DEP. These plans and procedures will direct aspects of work needed to safely demolish the buildings while protecting adjacent areas from demolition related debris, dust, and air quality concerns.

During building demolition, DEP contractors will be monitoring for fugitive dust and radiological contaminants on and off the site. Dust control measures such as water misting and other dust suppression measures will also be employed during demolition activities.

Upon completion of building demolition actions, the remaining building slabs and adjacent areas will be characterized, as necessary, to be addressed in a future response action to remediate contaminated soils and groundwater. Demolition activities are anticipated to occur between March and July 2019.

## Additional Site Information:

For additional information or questions regarding the Remacor Site, please contact the DEP Site Project Manager, Jake Moore, by phone at 814-332-6648 or email at [jacmoore@pa.gov](mailto:jacmoore@pa.gov).

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