

Bishop Tube HSCA Site

This information sheet serves as a summary overview of the project

BACKGROUND

The Bishop Tube HSCA Site is located on Malin Road, south of U.S. Route 30, in East Whiteland Township, Chester County, totaling approximately 13.7 acres. Stainless steel tubes were manufactured on the property from the 1950's until 1999, by a variety of different owners.

Trichloroethene (TCE) and its breakdown products have been detected in soil, surface water, groundwater and indoor air at the Site. Three main sources of TCE in the soil include two former vapor degreasers and a drum storage area.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1999 DEP activity on the Site began.
- 2004 DEP completed three phases of investigation activities which focused on soil, surface water, and groundwater conditions on the property.
- 2005 Constitution Drive Partners (CDP) purchased the property and signed a Prospective Purchaser Agreement (PPA) with DEP.
- 2007 The PPA with CDP was amended to facilitate the design, installation and operation of a physical treatment technology, known as an air sparging/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) system.
- 2008 The AS/SVE System was installed and operated. In two months, the system removed approximately 680 pounds of volatile organic compounds. Due to operational difficulties resulting from the shallow water table and system flooding, operation of the system was halted.
DEP entered a Consent Order and Agreement with Johnson Matthey Inc., a potentially responsible party. They agreed to complete a comprehensive study of the entire Site, including but not limited to, all impacts to groundwater and surface waters.
- 2009 The 2008 agreement with Johnson Matthey Inc., was amended to include Whittaker Corporation. Johnson Matthey, Inc. and Whitaker Corporation (JM/W) initiated their Site investigation activities.
- 2010 DEP entered into a second amendment to the PPA with CDP wherein DEP assumed operational control of the system in exchange for a monetary settlement.
DEP approached JM/W to initiate operation of the system. They presented an alternative technology, in-Situ Bioremediation (ISB) to remediate the hot spot areas.
JM/W submitted a Remedial Investigation (RI) Report.
The Site was placed on the Pennsylvania Priority List of Hazardous Sites.
- 2011 DEP oversaw CDP's cleanup actions after a transformer oil spill that occurred when a transformer was stolen from the property. DEP approved CDP's June 21, 2011 Final Report, which demonstrated attainment of an Act 2 Statewide Health Standard after the PCB cleanup was completed.
- 2014 JM/W initiated a Treatability Study of ISB.
- 2015 JM/W submitted a Supplemental RI Report and a Treatability Study Report
- 2016 DEP requested that JM/W submit a Feasibility Study.

The Investigation Activities included:

- The installation of 86 Monitoring Wells to evaluate the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater contamination.
- Soil investigations on the former Bishop Tube property to determine the extent of the soil contamination.
- Stream/Surface Water Studies to determine how the contamination was impacting the stream.
- A Vapor Intrusion Investigation, including indoor air sampling at 9 properties, is ongoing.

CURRENT STATUS

The DEP's responsibility, under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, is to select and assure a remedy that is protective of human health and the environment and otherwise complies with all statutory and regulatory requirements.

DEP understands that the current property owner, Constitution Drive Partners L.P. (CDP) is proposing residential development at the Site. CDP has not yet submitted any permit applications related to proposed development activities such as storm water management, etc. to DEP.

DEP considers any local land development issues, such as zoning or steep slope variances, to be exclusively under the authority of East Whiteland Township.

CDP has expressed their intent to partner with the Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC) to apply for a grant under the Industrial Sites Reuse Program (ISRP) administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The proposal under the grant is to excavate the most highly contaminated areas of the Bishop Tube Property, transport these contaminated soils to an off-site disposal facility, and backfill the areas with clean soil. While DCED will ultimately decide whether to issue the grant, DEP's responsibility in this process is to review the Scope of Work (SOW) submitted by the applicant to determine if the proposed activities will comply with all the environmental statutes DEP administers. Please note, any excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils conducted by CDP under an approved SOW would not be a final remediation of the Site, but would be one potential step towards a final cleanup.

NEXT STEPS

- DEP to complete review of the Scope of Work, submitted by the applicant for the ISRP grant. If ISRP grant funding is approved by DCED, DEP will oversee any work performed by CDP.
- DEP to review the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study submitted by JM/W, expected Fall 2017
- After review of the RI/FS reports submitted by JM/Whittaker, DEP will propose a remedial response action to address the contamination associated with the Site. All information that the DEP utilizes in formulating the proposal will be incorporated into the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record will be open for public comments for 90-days. During the comment period a public hearing will be held.

MORE INFORMATION

This information sheet will be updated periodically to reflect any status changes in the permit review process. For more information, and to track updates, visit DEP's Bishop Tube web page: www.dep.pa.gov/bishoptube

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