

RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT
MAHONING STREET MILTON SITE
TURBOT TOWNSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
NORTHCENTRAL REGION

DEP APPROVAL

Based on the facts and findings outlined in this Response Justification Document, Further Investigation or response action is deemed appropriate, pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.



Cheryl Sinclair, Regional Group Manager
Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program

5/27/2025

Date



Randy Farmerie, Regional Program Manager
Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

5/27/25

Date

SUMMARY OF FACTS

The Site consists of a residential home located in Milton Borough, Northumberland County, where a former resident collected various sources of radioactivity and store them in the home. The intended use of these materials is not fully understood, but DEP has responded to a report of storage and use of chemicals and radioactive materials at this location both in 2006 and in 2025. The property is approximately 0.25 acres with a home and garage located on site.

The collection, storage and use of radioactive materials at the Site has resulted in incidental contamination of various surfaces. Some impacted items could be removed from the home intact, while others such as flooring may need partial demolition work to be removed and disposed off-site. Storage/use of the radioactive materials appears to have been limited to the home based on screening conducted by the Bureau of Radiation Protection of the exterior and garage.

The presence of radioactive contamination is evident at the Site and further investigation is warranted to determine the extent of contamination and options for removal and disposal.

This Site is in a residential setting with a public high school within approximately 600 feet and unsecured access to the exterior of the building. An elderly resident currently occupies the home along with a pet cat. While this individual has been asked not to enter the areas where radioactive materials were stored, free access is available.

A "hazardous substance" is defined by HSCA (1) Any element, compound or material which is: (i) Designated as a hazardous waste under the act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the Solid Waste Management Act, and the regulations promulgated thereto. (ii) Defined or designated as a hazardous substance pursuant to the Federal Superfund Act. (iii) Contaminated with a hazardous substance to the degree that its release or threatened release poses a substantial threat to the public health and safety or the environment as determined by the department... The various radionuclides found at the site are listed in CERCLA 302.4 Appendix B. Hydrochloric acid was also found during the recent inspection and is also listed in CERCLA 302.4. While no release to the environment has occurred at the present time, the uncontrolled presence of these substances represents a potential for release.

The radioactive elements at the Site do not have Statewide Health Standards under Act 2 but do pose a risk to human health. Bureau of Radiation Protection utilizes program-specific criteria to evaluate risk.

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

The following "person"(s), as defined by Section 103 of HSCA, has/have been identified at this time as being Responsible Persons, pursuant to Section 701 of HSCA. Each Responsible Person identified below is entitled to legal notice under Section 501(a) of HSCA.

Jonathan Clark Smith (deceased), Alice Smith (Mother)

FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY TO ACT

DEP has determined that radioactive materials were stored and used at the Site resulting in contamination to multiple surfaces within the home. Radioactive materials are hazardous substances as defined by the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act. In addition there are other hazardous chemicals present such as hydrochloric acid. The presence of the radionuclides identified by the bureau of Radiation Protection represent an environmental and/or human health risk if not handled and disposed of correctly. Based on these findings, DEP has determined that a Further Investigation and response is appropriate.

REFERENCES

10/20/2006 ER report

5/1/2025 ECB inspection report

May 2025 Radiation Protection inspections