



## Tub Mill Farms and Clearview Farms Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act Interim Response

### SITE INFORMATION

Tub Mill Farm - off State Route 669 (A)

Clearview Farm - off Oak Dale Rd (B)

Elk Lick Township, Somerset County

### HISTORY

The site is split between two tax parcels, identified as 'Parcel A' (Tub Mill Farm) located off State Route 669 and 'Parcel B' (Clearview Farm) located off Oak Dale Rd.



This map highlights the areas where most of the utility poles and railroad ties are stored on-site.

Historic inspections performed by the DEP Waste Management Program found that the site was used for the processing, transferring, and disposing of thousands (70,000+) of chemically treated utility poles and railroad ties without a valid permit. Utility poles and railroad ties are treated with cancerous preservatives, such as chromated arsenicals, creosote, and pentachlorophenol (PCP), to protect against wood decay and insects.

A Consent Order & Agreement (CO&A) was signed in 2014 to address the removal of all utility poles and railroad ties within 6 years. In 2016, on-site sampling by DEP identified hazardous chemicals present in the soil. Site visits during 2022 confirmed that the site still contained the utility poles and railroad ties, in violation of the CO&A. Site remediation responsibility was transferred from DEP's Waste Management Program to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) Program based on the determination that the site's remediation was outside the original responsible party's financial means.

### INTERIM RESPONSE

DEP determined the threat to human health, safety, and the environment warrants an interim response to *remove the utility poles and railroad ties*.

#### DEP considered two options to address the threats at the site:

1. Take no action, or
2. Remove and properly dispose of the utility poles and railroad ties existing at the site.

DEP selected **option number 2** because it complies with the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements [Sections 504 of HSCA (35 P.S. §6020.504)], and it will address the potential human and environmental threats. The interim response will also include sampling of the soil directly below where the utility poles and railroad ties were stored to assess any additional impacts from the site. DEP will pursue cost recovery as warranted.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Administrative Record is open for review and comment until March 21, 2025. An Administrative Record digital copy is available on DEP's regional webpage, at [www.dep.pa.gov/southwest](http://www.dep.pa.gov/southwest) under the Community Information section for "Tub Mill and Clearview Farms HSCA." Written comments on the Administrative Record may be submitted by email to [RA-EPSW-HSCA@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPSW-HSCA@pa.gov) or by mail to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Regional Office, HSCA Program, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.