

SITE UPDATE
September 5, 2017

Site (SSID): Reilly Tar and Chemical Corporation (A8Q9)
On Scene Coordinator: Martin McComb
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response.epa.gov/ReillyCoalTar

I. SITE PROFILE

The Site is an abandoned coal tar distillery which operated from 1924 to 2002. The owner of the property filed for bankruptcy in 2016. Widespread subsurface contamination exists on-site.

The Site is located south of Provo, Utah at the intersection of Mountain Springs Parkway and East 1800 South Street in unincorporated Utah County. Land use in the area is largely industrial. The Ironton Canal constitutes the northern boundary of the Site. This canal discharges into Spring Creek and then into Utah Lake's Provo Bay approximately 4 miles west of the Site. There is a seasonal wetland to the south and groundwater tends to flow westward beneath a nearby industrial facility.

The proposed objectives of this response effort are to:

1. Excavate contaminated material from along the Ironton Canal at the northwest corner of the Site and install a flood-resistant barrier between the site and the canal at that location. Collect and dispose of contaminated liquids from this excavation and land farm the solid waste on-site in an upland area.
2. Improve Site drainage to prevent contaminated material from eroding into the Ironton Canal.
3. Collect and dispose of the asbestos-containing tiles found on-site.
4. Offer indoor air sampling to a nearby commercial business and coordinate with UDEQ to establish an environmental covenant on the property to guide future remediation activities.

II. SITE EVALUATION

Previous assessment efforts by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control indicate that soil and groundwater at the Site are contaminated with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. The State, in conjunction

with the bankruptcy trustee, is considering development of a full remediation plan for the Site.

In June 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Response Unit (EPA) and the UDEQ Division of Environmental Response and Remediation conducted a removal evaluation to determine if work needed to be performed to stabilize the Site until the full remediation plan could be implemented. The EPA and UDEQ Team excavated a series of exploratory trenches across the Site to investigate the subsurface contamination. The Team found that contaminated soil and groundwater exist across the Site with some areas having contaminated deposits in excess of 13 feet. The deposits to the east of the Site tend to be solidified coal tar byproducts while deposits to the west are more aqueous with contaminated fluids readily entering the exploratory trenches.

Drainage at the Site was designed to dewater the facility into the northwest corner of the Site and into the Iron-ton Canal. That drainage network was eventually plugged at its outfall and a secondary containment wall was constructed along the canal. Unfortunately, the footings of this containment wall are shallow and there is a large source area of aqueous and mobile material beneath the secondary containment wall at the location of the historic outfall. This material and other contaminated material along the preferred drainage pathway could enter the canal and flow downstream into Provo Bay during periods of high groundwater and large storm water flooding events.

In addition, contaminated material extends to the west beneath a neighboring industrial business. The office building at this location was constructed on top of a known historic impoundment that was once a part of the coal tar refining facility.

Finally, the removal evaluation also identified numerous asbestos-containing tiles scattered around the Site.

III. SITE ACTIVITIES

A. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The On Scene Coordinator proposed removal objectives to stabilize the site until a long term remediation plan can be developed. The funding mechanisms to support this effort will need to be approved by both EPA and UDEQ management.

B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

If the funding mechanisms have been approved, the On Scene Coordinator will create an Action Memorandum to serve as EPA's decision document and initiate an Time-critical Removal Action at the Site.