

QUAD AVENUE CHEMICAL AND BIOFUELS REMOVAL SITE



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

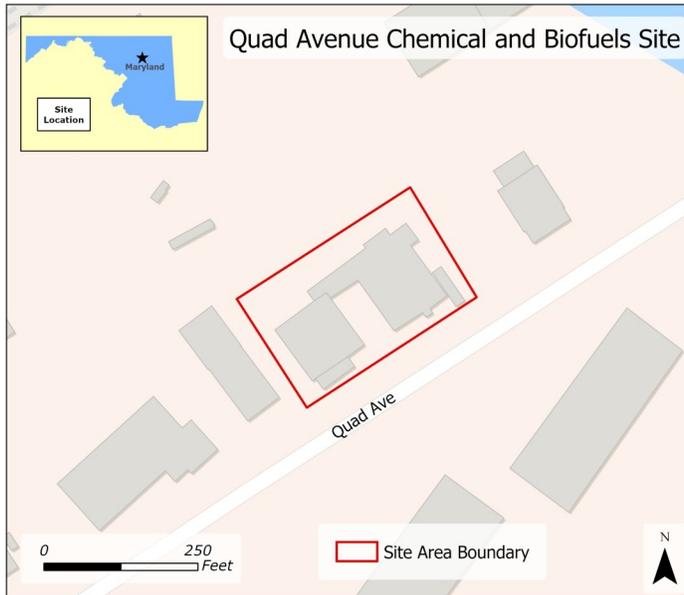
Prepared by Cherokee Nation Assurance, LLC, for U.S. EPA Region III

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Community involvement at Superfund Sites	4
2. Superfund Overview	5
2.1 What is Superfund?	5
2.2 What are Removal Actions?	6
3. About the Site	7
3.1 Site Overview	7
3.2 Site Investigation and Cleanup	7
4. About the Community	11
4.1 Community Overview	11
4.2 Community Feedback	11
5. Community Involvement Tools and Techniques	13
6. Appendices	
A. Glossary with Acronyms.....	15
B. Resources for the Community	16
C. EPA and Other Agency Contacts	17
D. Elected Officials	18
E. Media Outlets	21
F. Potential Meeting Locations	22
G. Information Repositories	23
H. Public Notice Ad	24
I. Additional Websites & Resources	26

1 - Introduction

Under the federal Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting an environmental investigation and cleanup at the Quad Avenue Chemical and Bio Fuels Site.



The Quad Avenue Chemical and Bio Fuels Site is an abandoned industrial facility located in Baltimore, MD. From 1979 to about 2014, several businesses operated on site, using large quantities of chemicals to develop and produce epoxy and biofuel products. The site includes two warehouse buildings on Quad Avenue, which are bounded to the east and west by commercial facilities, and to the north by a tributary to Herring Run.

During investigations of the site, EPA identified a large quantity of containers containing hazardous materials, including corrosives, flammables, solvents, and oils. Many of the containers were found in deteriorated condition and some were leaking their contents. EPA began emergency cleanup activities in 2018 and the cleanup is ongoing.

Throughout the cleanup process, EPA is committed to involving the public and keeping the community informed about cleanup activities and how these activities may impact them. This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been developed to facilitate two-way dialogue between the community affected by the Quad Ave Chemicals and Bio Fuels Site and EPA to encourage participation throughout the cleanup process. The foundation of this plan has been developed based on input from local government representatives, residents, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Community Involvement Goals

- Provide the community with accurate, timely, and understandable information about the cleanup in a manner that is considerate of their preference and culture;
- Facilitate opportunities for public input and ensure community needs and concerns are considered; and
- Respect and consider community input and feedback on EPA's process as it is being carried out.

1 - Introduction

1.1 Community Involvement at Superfund Sites

The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during the cleanup of contaminated sites. The CIP is EPA’s site-specific roadmap for informing and engaging community members in the cleanup process. This CIP is intended to provide general Superfund program information, describe the site and the community, identify the needs and concerns of the community, as well as help to identify the many participation opportunities and options available throughout the cleanup process. Furthermore, this CIP is also intended to be a resource for EPA staff, our partners at the state and local level, and the community. The CIP will inform new team members about the community, identify community concerns, and list community resources for planning meetings and communicating with residents and officials. The CIP is a “living” document that can be modified as input is received from the community.

This Community Involvement Plan:

- Adopts community involvement tools and practices to be used at the Quad Avenue Site;
- Incorporates recommendations from interviews regarding ways to further improve community involvement; and
- Identifies existing networks in the area to ensure culturally/linguistically appropriate, effective, and efficient outreach methods are implemented.

EPA Points of Contact

Kelley Chase
On Scene Coordinator
 U.S. EPA Region III
 1650 Arch Street – 3SD31
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone: (215) 814-3124
 Email: chase.kelley@epa.gov

Megan Keegan
Community Involvement Coordinator
 U.S. EPA Region III
 1650 Arch Street - 3RA22
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone: (215) 814-5494
 Email: keegan.megan@epa.gov

2 - Superfund Overview

2.1 - What is the Superfund Program?

To participate in or follow the Superfund process as it unfolds in your community, it is important to know what Superfund is and how it works. EPA's Superfund Program, enacted in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund Program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places.

The CERCLA law gives EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for contaminating sites to clean up those sites or to reimburse the government if EPA cleans up the site. EPA compels responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, consent decrees, and other legal settlements. Superfund site identification, monitoring, and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal, and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.

There are several steps involved in cleaning up a contaminated site. Once EPA has been made aware of a contaminated site from individual citizens, local or state agencies, or others, EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment. If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, EPA can intervene with an emergency response or removal action.

For more information about EPA's cleanup programs, please visit:

- **Basic Information about Cleanups**

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/basic-information-about-cleanups>

- **EPA's Role in Emergency Response**

<https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-role-emergency-response>

- Additional web resources are provided in **Appendix I**.

2.2 What are Removal Actions?

Removal actions are responses to releases that threaten the public health, welfare, or the environment of the United States. Removal actions tend to be rapid in order to address immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. The lead agency is required to make a determination that a removal action is appropriate.

Removal actions are initiated when an "Action Memorandum" (action memo) is signed. The action memo designates the type of removal action to be conducted. Alternatively, EPA can use a Special Bulletin to quickly begin removal actions in emergency situations. There are three categories of removal actions:

1. **Emergency Removals** require an immediate response to releases or threatened releases to the environment.
2. **Time-Critical Removals** are situations for which EPA determines, based on a site evaluation, that a removal is appropriate and onsite removal activities must begin within six months of that determination.
3. **Non-Time-Critical Removals** are undertaken when EPA determines, based on a site evaluation, that a removal action is appropriate and there is a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must begin.

3 - About the Site

3.1 - Site Overview

The Quad Ave Site is an abandoned industrial facility located in an industrial/commercial area of Baltimore, Maryland. From 1979 to 2014, several businesses operated on site, using large quantities of chemicals to develop various epoxy and biofuel products. The site is approximately one acre in size, consisting of two condemned warehouse buildings containing a large quantity of drums and other containers. Behind the property there is a steep bank that drops down to a tributary to Herring Run.



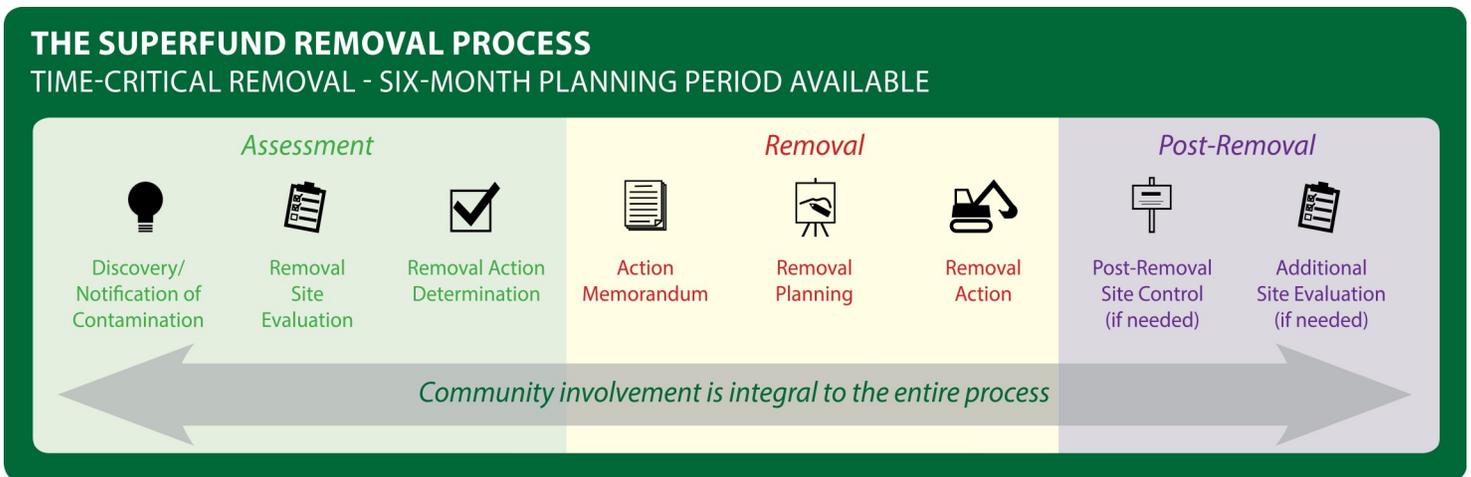
3.2 - Site Investigation and Cleanup

The Quad Avenue Site has been designated as a time-critical removal. Time-critical removals are situations for which EPA determines that a removal is appropriate and onsite removal activities must begin within six months.

There are two types of time-critical removals, depending on the expected duration of the removal action:

1. **Short-term responses** for which on-site activities will be completed within 120 days of the initiation of on-site actions, and
2. **Longer-term responses** that require more than 120 days for on-site activities.

The Quad Avenue Site is designated as a **longer-term response** because removal actions are expected to extend beyond 120 days. (120 days for time-critical)



In May 2018, investigators from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Special Investigations Unit (DHCD-SIU) with support from the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) conducted a search at the site due to concerns that hazardous chemicals were being stored on the property. The site was referred to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), who requested EPA’s assistance to address threats at the site. EPA investigated the site on May 24, 2018, with the assistance of DHCD-SIU, BCFD and MDE.

Investigators observed numerous drums and various other containers outside and inside both buildings, many of which were in deteriorating condition. Based on the initial investigation, it is estimated that the site contains more than one thousand containers. Given the apparent abandonment of the property, lack of security and signs of trespassing, the condition of the warehouses, and the volume and condition of the various containers, the site was considered to pose an immediate threat to public health or welfare or the environment.

On June 21, 2018, an Action Memorandum was signed, which approved funding and response actions to clean up the site. In August 2018, a warrant authorized EPA to conduct additional site investigations and a limited response action, which included securing and stabilizing the site by categorizing and segregating containers of hazardous substances.

EPA was granted access to complete response actions in November 2019, and mobilized to the site in December 2019. Response actions include the transportation and off-site disposal of hazardous substances.





Drums and containers stored in rear of warehouse | December 2019



Lot between two warehouse buildings on the Site | December 2019

4 - About the Community

4.1 Community Overview

The Quad Avenue Chemical and Bio Fuels Site is located in the Pulaski Industrial Area of Baltimore, MD. There are no residents in the immediate area of the site, but several neighboring businesses.

4.2 Community Feedback

The On-Scene-Coordinator (OSC) conducted door-to-door outreach in August 2018 upon the start of on-site activities, in order to inform nearby businesses about EPA's planned response actions. In addition, in September 2018, EPA published a public notice in the Baltimore Sun newspaper to announce the availability of the Administrative Record for the site. The Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) and OSC also conducted door-to-door outreach on December 18, 2019 to meet with the owners and staff of neighboring businesses to solicit community feedback and answer questions regarding the Site. In general, these individuals were curious about the Site and the process of the cleanup, but had few questions. The CIC asked all neighboring businesses if they would participate in a community interview to assist in the development of the CIP, but all declined.

On January 10, 2020, the CIC mailed postcards to all businesses within a 0.25 mile radius of the Site with an update of cleanup activities. The postcard included contact information for the OSC and CIC, and called for volunteers to participate in a short interview for the CIP. The CIC and OSC did not receive any inquiries via email or phone following the mailing of the postcard, and no individuals volunteered to be interviewed for the CIP.

DEMOGRAPHICS: Baltimore City, MD

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012-2016 Estimates, there were **621,000 people** living in **242, 416 households**. The gender breakdown was **47% Male** and **53% Female**

Population by Age:

Age 0 – 4	7%
Age 5 – 17	21%
Age 18 – 64	79%
Age 65 +	12%

Population by Race:

One Race:	98%
White	30%
Black	63%
American Indian	0%*
Asian	3%
Pacific Islander	0%*
Some Other Race	2%
Two or More Races:	2%

*Less than 1%

Households by Household Income:

< \$15,000	20%
\$15,000 – \$25,000	11%
\$25,000 – \$50,000	24%
\$50,000 – \$70,000	17%
\$75,000 +	28%

5 - Community Involvement Tools and Techniques

The foundation of Superfund's Community Involvement Program is the belief that members of the community affected by a removal site have the right to be informed and involved in EPA's decision-making process. EPA recognizes the benefits that an engaged public brings to the cleanup process and is committed to providing and encouraging public participation so that the people whose lives have been impacted by removal sites, and EPA's actions to clean them up, have a say in what happens in their community. EPA's Community Involvement Program strives to maintain a consistent community presence and build relationships with the community and local stakeholders, as well as local, state, and other federal government agencies.

This Community Involvement Action Plan highlights EPA's key objectives, methods, and timeline for conducting site-specific activities to keep residents, community stakeholders, and local officials informed and involved throughout the cleanup process. Which ones are used and how frequently they occur usually reflect the stage in the process and level of interest expressed by the community. To establish this plan, EPA considered several factors, including community needs, concerns, and recommendations.

For more information on available community resources, please visit:

[EPA's Superfund Community Involvement Website](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement)

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

Community Involvement Action Plan

Community Involvement Objectives	Tools & Methods	Status
Maintain points of contact	Points of contact (see Appendix C), Site website	Completed
Establish an information repository	Information repository located at the Southeast Anchor Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and at EPA (see Appendix G)	Completed
Maintain a consistent community presence to build relationships, especially among those most directly affected by contamination and cleanup	Door-to-door outreach, direct mailings (factsheets, postcards) with site updates, e-mail notifications, and telephone conversations	Ongoing
Conduct early, frequent, and meaningful community involvement activities using a wide variety of tools and strategies to engage and communicate ongoing and planned site activities with the community		Site Update Postcard sent in January 2020; other activities ongoing as needed
Explain technical site activities and findings in a format that all can understand	Fact sheets, Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC), Community Advisory Group	Ongoing as needed
Write and distribute news releases and public notices	Media notifications for public comment periods, meetings, information sessions	Public Notice of Administrative Record Availability in September 2018
Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and adjust as necessary	Update Community Involvement Plan (CIP) as needed	Periodically throughout the cleanup process

Appendix A - Glossary with Acronyms

ACS	American Community Survey
AO	Administrative Order
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CAG	Community Advisory Group
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
NPL	National Priorities List
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PRAP	Proposed Remedial Action Plan
PRPs	Potentially Responsible Parties
RA	Remedial Action
RD	Remedial Design
ROD	Record of Decision
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities

Appendix B - Resources for the Community

EPA offers many opportunities and resources to facilitate the community's involvement in EPA's activities and decisions. Which tools are used and how many activities occur usually reflects the level of interest expressed by the community. For a comprehensive description of available resources and opportunities, visit [EPA's Superfund Community Involvement site](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement) at:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

Get Involved and Get Support

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

(<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups>)

- Self-governing stakeholder group that meets regularly to learn about EPA's cleanup process, discuss issues and concerns, and provide feedback to EPA. EPA can provide support to the CAG by attending meetings, making presentations, procuring meeting rooms, advertising the meetings, and providing copies of site-related documents.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

(<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>)

- Program that provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by a site. Such assistance helps communities to better understand the hazardous waste issues confronting them and make them well-informed while participating in the decision-making process.

For questions, please contact:

Gina Soccia, EPA Region III's CAG/TAG/TASC Coordinator

(215) 814-5538

soccia.gina@epa.gov

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix C - EPA and Other Agency Contacts

EPA

Kelley Chase**On Scene Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street – 3SD31
Phone: (215) 814-3124
Email: chase.kelley@epa.gov

Megan Keegan**Community Involvement Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street – 3RA22
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-5494
Email: keegan.megan@epa.gov

Gina Soscia**CAG/TAG/TASC Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street - 3RA22
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-5538
Email: soscia.gina@epa.gov

Kyle Zieba**State and Congressional Liaison**

U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street – 3RA20
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-19103
Email: zieba.kyle@epa.gov

Maryland Agency

Maryland Department of Environment

1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: (410) 537-3000
<https://mde.maryland.gov>

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix D - Elected Officials

Federal

Senator Ben Cardin

509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4524
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov>

Representative John Sarbanes, 3rd District

2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4016
<https://sarbanes.house.gov>

Senator Chris Van Hollen

110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4654
<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov>

State

Governor Larry Hogan

100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone: (410) 974-3901
<https://governor.maryland.gov>

State Senator - District 46

Senator Bill Ferguson

3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 841-3600
<http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject6&id=ferguson&stab=01>

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix D - Elected Officials

State Delegates - District 46

Delegate Luke Clippinger

101 House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (410) 841-348

[http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=clippinger&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

[pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=clippinger&stab=01&ys=2019RS](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=clippinger&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

Delegate Robbyn Lewis

304 House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (410) 841-3772

[http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lewis01&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

[pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lewis01&stab=01&ys=2019RS](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lewis01&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

Delegate Brooke E. Lierman

311 House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (410) 841-3319

[http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lierman01&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

[pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lierman01&stab=01&ys=2019RS](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=sponpage&tab=subject3&id=lierman01&stab=01&ys=2019RS)

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix D - Elected Officials

Local

City of Baltimore, MD

City Hall - Room 250

100 N. Holliday St,

Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: (410) 396-3100

<https://www.baltimorecity.gov/>

Mayor

Bernard C. "Jack" Young

Office of the Mayor

250 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

<https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov>

City Council Member

Danielle McCray- 2nd District

100 Holliday Street

Suite 500

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Phone: (410) 396-4808

Email: danielle.mccray@baltimorecity.gov

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix E - Media Contacts

Newspapers

The Baltimore Sun

501 N. Calvert St.
P.O. Box 1377
Baltimore, MD 21278
<http://www.baltimoresun.com>

Baltimore City Paper

501 N. Calvert St.
P.O. Box 1377
Baltimore, MD 21278
<http://www.citypaper.com>

Television Stations

2 WMAR Baltimore (ABC)

6400 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Phone: (410) 377-2222
<https://www.wmar2news.com>

WBALTV 11 NBC

3800 Hooper Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211
Phone: (410) 467-3000
<https://www.wbaltv.com>

13 WJZ CBS Baltimore

3725 Malden Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211
Phone: (410) 466-0013
<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com>

MPT-TV (PBS)

11767 Owings Mills Blvd.
Owings Mills, MD 21117
Phone: (410) 356-5600
<http://www.mpt.org>

Radio Station

WYPR 88.1 FM

2216 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Phone: (866) 661-9308
<http://www.mpt.org>

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix F - Potential Meeting Locations

Patterson High School

100 Kane St
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: (410) 396-9276

Our Lady of Fatima

6400 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: (410) 633-9393

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix G - Information Repositories

When EPA formally proposes a cleanup plan, it collects every document that was used or relied upon to develop and analyze the proposed action. This collection of technical documents is called the Administrative Record (AR) and is available online or at an information repository. The following information repositories have been established for the Quad Avenue site:

Local Repository

**Southeast Anchor Branch
Enoch Pratt Free Library**

3601 Eastern Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21224

EPA Office

**U.S. EPA Region 3
Administrative Records Room**

1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 814-3157, by appointment

Online

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR65703>

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix H - Public Notice

The following ad ran on September 14, 2018 in the Baltimore Sun newspaper.

EPA PUBLIC NOTICE

Administrative Record available for public review Quad Ave Chemical & Bio Fuels

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of the Administrative Record (AR) for removal activities planned at the **Quad Avenue Chemical and Bio Fuels Site** in Baltimore, where EPA has access to secure and sample a large quantity of containers of unknown contents found in two abandoned warehouses and throughout the property. EPA intends to remove and dispose of hazardous substances found in the containers that pose a threat to public health and the environment. The AR contains documents about cleanup activities to ensure public health and the environment are protected.

Cleanup documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- 1) **Online at:** <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR65703>
- 2) **Southeast Anchor Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library**
3601 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224
Please see reference desk to access materials.
- 3) **Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 office**
1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Please call (215) 814-3157 to schedule an appointment.

Last Updated: March 1, 2020

Appendix I - Additional Websites & Resources

Quad Avenue Information Repository

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/03/AR65703>

EPA's Superfund Program

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund>

Superfund Community Involvement

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

This is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program

<http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/HQ/175197>

ATSDR ToxFAQS page

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>

Last Updated: March 1, 2020