



REMOVAL

Lavoie Property Site Berlin, NH

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be resuming a removal action at the Lavoie Property Site (Site), 640 Hillside Ave in Berlin, NH. The site was referred to the EPA by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in 2019. The Site is a mostly wooded area made up of three properties that were used as an unlicensed junk yard and is bordered by residential properties. During initial investigation at the site in 2019, samples collected showed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and lead in the surface soil at levels of concern.

REMOVAL WORK

EPA is planning to be back on site the week of April 12th, 2021 to start preparing it for the resumption of the removal. This work is expected to take approximately five weeks and will include removing stockpiled contaminated soils and disposing of them at EPA-approved off-site disposal facilities. Soil removal activities are scheduled to begin the week of April 19th, with hours of operation approximately Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 5:00pm each day. Trucks can be expected to be seen leaving the Site going down Hillside Ave. towards Russell St., down 1st Ave. to NH-16 South out of Berlin. Once the soil removal is complete, EPA will repair any response related damage, including establishing ground cover to minimize the potential of erosion. There are currently office trailers on site; they will continue to be used for the remainder of the removal action and will be removed upon completion. On-site workers will be wearing personal protective equipment, including wearing white Tyvek protective suits due to their daily direct contact with contaminated soils.

WORK DONE TO DATE

In September 2020, EPA focused on site preparation, including improving Site access, clearing trees and other vegetation from the areas to be excavated and the area planned for stockpiling excavated soil.

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From October through December 2020, EPA began excavating contaminated soil and staged the soil on Site. A layer of geotextile fabric was laid across the bottom of the excavated areas to serve as a visible indicator of the undisturbed soil. The areas were then backfilled with clean soil. Crushed stone was brought to the Site and used to create improved access for trucks.

On December 21, 2020, EPA temporarily suspended on Site activities due to winter weather conditions.

CONTAMINANTS

PCBs are a group of man-made organic chemicals that were manufactured in the United States from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979. PCBs have a range of toxicity and vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids. For more information about PCBs, please visit: www.epa.gov/PCB

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, in high concentrations it can be toxic to humans and animals, causing negative health effects. For more information about lead please visit: www.epa.gov/lead