EPA Constructs Groundwater Treatment Facility on Caroline Avenue

Lawrence Aviation Industries Superfund site

Port Jefferson, Suffolk County, New York

Community Update **July 2011**

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the LAI site and activities being conducted, please contact:

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Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting cleanup activities at the Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) site located in Port Jefferson Station, New York. In September 2006, the EPA issued a Record of Decision detailing remedial actions for the site, along with ground water impacts to the Village of Port Jefferson. These remedial activities include the construction of two ground water pump and treatment systems. One system has been constructed and started operating in September 2010. The system located approximately one-mile downgradient of the LAI property, at the intersection of Caroline Avenue and Brook Road in the Village of Port Jefferson, will become operational in August 2011.

Due to its residential /park setting, the 1500 ft^2 groundwater pump and treatment facility was constructed with much public input. The exterior façade of the structure, as well as siding color, roof color, and exterior theme was patterned following public meetings held in the Village of Port Jefferson. Local sources were utilized for many of the building elements and green technologies implemented. Other concepts were incorporated following input from various community boards, including the Architectural Review and Beautification Committees.

Current and Future Activities

When the groundwater pump and treatment plant becomes operational, contaminated groundwater will be extracted from wells located on-site. There are four of these wells, ranging from 80 ft to 140 ft in depth. Water will be pumped from the wells and first sent through bag filters to remove any heavy sedimentation and debris. Next, the water is sent through an air stripping unit. Here, air is introduced to the water to remove some of the VOCs out of the water media. The air proceeds to a carbon filtration vessel, where VOCs are collected and absorbed, allowing contaminate-free air to be released to the environment. Much of the same occurs to the aqueous phase material, where water is removed from the air stripper and sent to carbon filtration units. Again, VOCs are absorbed by the carbon allowing contaminate-free water to be released into the Old Mill Pond and Creek.

The facility is secured with various security systems in place. All controls to the pump and treatment process can be monitored and operated via remote technologies. Many fail-safe mechanisms have been incorporated into the design of the facility, so that the system will shut down should certain conditions be met (i.e. heavy rainfall events).

It is estimated that the facility will be operating for approximately 20 years in an effort to bring levels of volatile organic compounds to an acceptable level for protecting human health and the environment.