

COVID Community Update**July 2020**

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

During the ongoing situation with COVID-19, EPA was able to continue on-site operations of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system to address 1,2,3-trichloropropane (TCP) contamination in the soil at the MacKenzie Chemical Works site through automated site operations. To clean up residual TCP contamination in an area that could not be addressed by the SVE system, EPA is currently preparing work and safety plans to excavate and dispose of the soils off-site. This work is anticipated to begin in mid-August 2020. An updated health and safety plan will address preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus during cleanup activities. This plan requires best practices for site safety, including appropriate personal protective equipment for employees, health checks of employees, and other measures, in addition to promoting safe construction practices. EPA will monitor site operations and the contractor's health and safety practices.

The decision to resume work was made in consultation with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. EPA will continue to work closely with state and local health officials and all partners and stakeholders to make determinations about site work based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's important to know that EPA maintains its ability to respond to environmental emergencies at Superfund sites or in any situation where EPA is called upon to protect human health and the environment by responding to releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

For more information on the MacKenzie Chemical Works site, please visit:

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/mackenzie_chemical

For more information on EPA's response to COVID, please visit:

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