

EPA to Begin Construction of High Falls Drinking Water Treatment Plant

Mohonk Road Industrial Plant Superfund Site
High Falls, Ulster County, New York

August 2005

Treatment Plant Construction to Start in September 2005; EPA to Host Public Forum

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently completed the design work necessary to construct a drinking water treatment plant and water distribution system for the High Falls Water District (HFWD). This work is being done to ensure that the HFWD can provide clean drinking water to a projected population of 426 residents and businesses in the Towns of Marbletown and Rosendale whose well water has been affected by, or could be threatened in the future from, contaminants related to past industrial activities at the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) located at 186 Mohonk Road.

Our Goal is to Keep You Informed

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this fact sheet to provide community members and their local officials with the latest information on the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) Superfund site.

August 24 Public Forum

EPA will answer questions and discuss plans for the upcoming construction work from **7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the High Falls Fire House located in the Town of Marbletown**, on Fire House Road near the intersection of U.S. Route 213 and Mohonk Road.

Who to Contact

If you have questions about the public forum or general concerns with the site or upcoming work, please contact David Kluesner, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at **(212) 637-3653 or toll-free at 800-346-5009 or kluesner.dave@epa.gov**. For technical questions, contact call Salvatore Badalamenti, Project Manager, at **(212) 637-3314 or a badalamenti.salvatore@epa.gov**.

EPA, Region 2 has designated a Regional Public Liaison for you to call, should you have concerns about the Superfund program. Please call **(888) 283-7626**.

Where to Get Information

You can review documents and site reports by visiting the Stone Ridge or Rosendale Public Libraries.

For information on the Superfund process, MRIP site, or other hazardous waste sites in New York, visit:
www.epa.gov/region02/superfund

Construction will begin in September 2005 and will be carried out in two phases. The estimated cost for both phases is approximately \$18 million, and is being paid for by EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The first phase involves construction of the treatment plant and the connections to the Catskill Aqueduct (at the Siphon House on Canal Road), which is part of the New York City Reservoir system owned and maintained by New York City. The Catskill Aqueduct will provide the raw (untreated) water. Water mains, which will be installed along Mountain View Road in the first phase, will transport the raw water approximately 1,200 feet from the Siphon House to the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant will occupy approximately seven acres of land in the rear section of the MRIP property located at 186 Mohonk Road.

The first phase will also include:

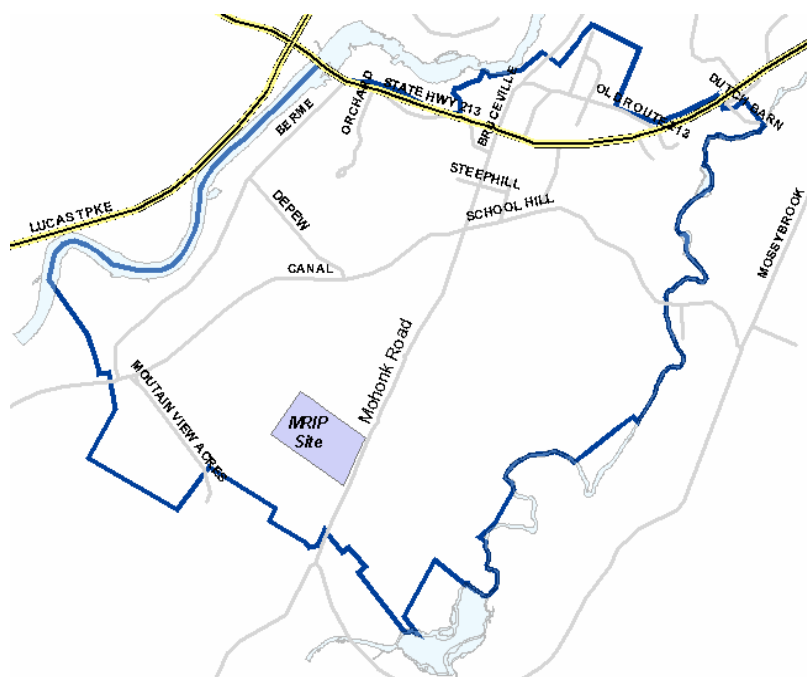
- Installation of a ground level raw-water tank to store backup supplies of raw water;
- Installation of an elevated finished water storage tank for storage of finished water and to ensure sufficient water pressure throughout the HFWD;
- Building lagoons at the MRIP property for settling and drying solids from the treatment process; and
- Performing operational testing, shakedown, and training of HFWD operators until the plant can be turned over to the HFWD.

The treatment plant will provide filtration and disinfection of the raw water. Stringent sampling and monitoring will be conducted to verify that the treated drinking water meets all federal and state safe drinking water standards. Construction for the first phase should be completed in summer/fall 2006.

Second Phase of Construction to Begin in 2006

Construction of the drinking water distribution system will begin in 2006. The second phase of construction includes:

- Constructing water distribution lines (water mains) across State, County, and Town roads and highways;
- Installing service connection lines for approximately 224 homes and business in the HFWD;
- Disconnecting water supply wells from each residence and/or business;



- Connecting service lines and ancillary equipment to existing plumbing of residences and businesses; and
- Removal and disposal of existing granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems. The individual residential GAC filtration systems currently in use by 75 homes and businesses will be removed when the new drinking water supply system is operational.

Both Construction Phases Scheduled for Completion in 2007

Conti Environment & Infrastructure has been selected by the Corps as the construction contractor. EPA and the Corps will oversee the work and are fully committed to minimizing potential impacts and temporary inconveniences to the Marletown and Rosendale communities during the construction.

EPA Monitoring and Treatment Efforts Continue

EPA continues to operate a groundwater extraction and treatment system at the MRIP site to remove chemicals from the aquifer in order to prevent its movement to other areas and to restore its usability. EPA has operated this system since May 2000, and to-date, approximately 36,000,000 gallons have been treated.

EPA continues to monitor drinking water supply wells located around the groundwater contaminant plume that was caused by past operations at the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant. The monitoring ensures that drinking water continues to be safe for domestic use at homes not having (GAC) filters. For those homes that do have GAC filters, EPA monitors to determine when GAC filter maintenance is required. These actions will continue until all homes and businesses within the HFWD are connected to the new water supply system.

Site Background

The Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) is located within the Town of Marletown. Industrial activities took place at the 14.5-acre MRIP property since the early 1960's, including metal finishing, wet spray painting, and manufacturing of computer frames, card punch machines and store display fixtures. Area groundwater is contaminated with the chemicals 1,1-dichloroethene (DCE) and 1,1-dichloroethane (DCA) and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) and trichloroethene (TCE), which are directly related to activities that occurred at the MRIP. A groundwater plume extends north from the MRIP property for approximately one mile and has currently affected 75 residential and commercial water supply wells.

The NYSDEC began investigating the MRIP Site in 1994. As an interim action to address immediate health threats, NYSDEC installed GAC filters at homes and businesses whose wells exceeded New York State drinking water standards. The MRIP site was included on EPA's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in January 1999, and in June of that year, EPA started the construction of a groundwater extraction and treatment system to immediately minimize the migration of the most highly contaminated portion of the groundwater plume. A cleanup plan for the MRIP site was selected by EPA in March 2000. That cleanup plan addressed soil and groundwater contamination and included:

- Long-term operation of the groundwater treatment system to address the contaminant plume.
- Providing an alternate water supply and operation of the individual GAC filtration systems until the permanent water supply system is operational.
- Excavation and off-site disposal of chemical-contaminated soils.

The excavation and removal of approximately 500 cubic yards of contaminated soils from the MRIP property was completed by EPA in June 2001. In 2005, EPA completed design of the alternate water supply system and procured the cleanup funds needed to perform the first phase of construction.