

Additional Questions /Discussions From PRAP Public Meeting

Question: Is there or was there any contamination going into our neighborhood?

Answer: Residences along 10th Avenue and Congress Street are in the upgradient groundwater flow direction and therefore we do not expect contamination from the site to migrate toward homes or other buildings on these streets. Soil vapor points sampled on the perimeter of the site nearest 10th Avenue did not indicate the presence of contaminated soil vapor that would represent a health concern or warrant further investigations.

Question: Is the excavation and off-site removal of contaminated soil not being considered because it is too hazardous/dangerous for the surrounding community?

Answer: No. The proposed remedy of limited excavation, capping and treatment of soils in place (in situ) using a combination of heating and vacuum extraction of soil gases and natural biological biodegradation will include measures to minimize the off-site migration of site related contaminants to the nearby community. Such measures at a minimum will include monitoring of air and dust at the site's perimeter, utilizing odor and dust suppression techniques, covering truck beds of trucks transporting contaminated soil off-site, and if needed washing of truck tires before trucks exit the site. If the soil excavation for off-site disposal was the selected remedy, these measures and possibly additional measures would also be taken to ensure that the surrounding community is protected.

Question: How do you know that this remedy will work?

Answer: The proposed remedy should work based on lab scale and pilot scale testing of the approach being recommended for this site. However, if it does not work, the proposed remedy includes a contingent remedy that would, then, be implemented.

Question: Why didn't I know that this was a contaminated site? I have lived right next door for nine years.

Answer: The contamination is not readily apparent when looking at the surface of the site. The contamination is located below ground and was only discovered after taking groundwater and soil samples from below the surface. Residents are notified when and how sites are cleaned up and if there is an immediate danger to the community. In this case residents were notified in 2001 when the initial cleanup was done and in 2010 for the current cleanup. At no time has there been an immediate threat to the surrounding community.

Question: Is SI Group responsible for the cleanup at the site? How do we know they will do it right? Do they make all the final decisions on what needs to be done here? Will SI Group do the cleanup themselves?

Answer: SI Group is responsible for cleaning up this site. However, they are not responsible for

deciding how to clean up the site. They have assessed many alternative ways of cleaning up this site. The Department, after evaluating these alternatives using the criteria listed in the PRAP, decided which technologies to use to clean up this site.

The Department will be overseeing the clean-up activities SI Group will conduct. The Department will have personnel at the site during the time when Schenectady International conducts these activities to ensure that the cleanup is done in accordance with the approved plans. In addition, Schenectady International will have to submit a professional engineer's certification to the Department that states that the cleanup was done in accordance with the approved plans. SI Group will be using contractors to do the actual cleanup.

Question: Who is responsible for trash dumped along the street (that goes behind the site?)

Answer: If the person who dumped the trash can be found, that person is responsible for disposal of that trash. If that person cannot be found and if the trash was dumped on the road, then the trash becomes the City of Schenectady's responsibility. If that person cannot be found and if the trash was dumped on an individual or company's property, then the trash becomes that individual or company's responsibility.