

MARCH 2022

EPA Proposes Site to NPL

EPA, in collaboration with Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control, has completed its site inspection of the Georgetown North Groundwater Site (site). The inspection concluded that the site poses a risk and may require long-term cleanup.

On March 18, 2022, EPA will propose the site to the National Priorities List (NPL).

The NPL is a list of the most serious sites identified for long-term cleanup. When a site is proposed to the NPL, EPA publishes a rule in the Federal Register about its intention and notifies the community. EPA also holds a 60-day comment period for community members to comment on the proposal. The State of Delaware has concurred on the proposed listing.



Groundwater Sampling on Site

Next Steps

Following the comment period and responses, if the site still qualifies for cleanup under Superfund, the site is formally listed on the NPL by a final rule, to be published in the Federal Register in Fall 2022 and becomes a Superfund Site. The site would be eligible for federal financial assistance and a long-term cleanup. EPA will continue to keep the Georgetown community informed throughout the NPL proposal.

Additional Resources

For more information about the site, y para informacion en Espanol, scan the QR Code with your smartphone or visit the website:

www.epa.gov/superfund/georgetowngroundwater



EPA would like to hear from you!

EPA is holding a 60-day public comment period from March 18 to May 17, 2022. Comments can be submitted one of two ways:

Online: <http://www.regulations.gov>
Search for "EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0190"

Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Docket #
EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0190
Mailcode 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Questions? Contact us!

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GEORGETOWN NORTH GROUNDWATER

What Has Been Done at the Site To Date?

The state of Delaware began their investigation for potential sources of groundwater contamination when the city's water authority reported contaminants in the untreated water. In 2018, DNREC requested EPA assistance to determine the source of the contaminated groundwater plume. EPA in coordination with DNREC conducted a removal assessment to characterize this Site.

Due to the ongoing risks and identified contamination, EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA). The goal of the PA was to gather data and information for additional site activities. The PA identified potential source areas at the Site may pose a threat to human health and the Site and warrants further investigation.

Beginning in January 2020, EPA started the Site Inspection (SI) to further define the groundwater contamination. The objective of an SI is to gather information to support a site decision regarding the need for further Superfund action. EPA collected water, soil, and air samples to determine if hazardous substances were present at the Site and if the site poses a threat to human health and the environment. The SI concluded the site should be proposed to the NPL for long-term investigation and cleanup.

In 2022, EPA will also evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at the site. This investigation will examine if vapors from contamination in the groundwater are moving into nearby buildings, and determine if action is needed to protect human health and the environment.

Site Location and Background

The Georgetown North Groundwater site is in a mixed-use area consisting of residential homes and commercial buildings within the town of Georgetown, Delaware.

The site consists of soil and groundwater plumes contaminated with the solvent tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and its breakdown products. PCE is commonly used in commercial and industrial operations such as dry cleaning. Two former dry cleaners in Georgetown may have contributed to the groundwater and soil contamination.

Georgetown's public drinking water supply is treated to remove the contaminants from the untreated/raw water and continues to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Additional Resources

For more information about the Georgetown North Groundwater Site, please visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/georgetowngroundwater

For more information about EPA's Superfund Program:

www.epa.gov/superfund

This Is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/11/175197>

Question and Answer Sessions

Session 1: Phone-In

Thursday, April 14, 2022
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Phone Number: (484) 352-3221
Conference ID: 307589259#

Session 2: In Person

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Georgetown Public Library
123 W Pine St
Georgetown DE 19947

Habla Español?

Visita

www.epa.gov/superfund/georgetowngroundwater
para mas informacion.