



# Solvents Recovery Service of New England (SRSNE) Site

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## SRSNE SITE CLEANUP UNDERWAY – FIRST PHASE WAS A SUCCESS

A multi-phase cleanup is underway at the SRSNE Site, located on approximately 14 acres of land along the Quinnipiac River in Southington, Connecticut. With oversight from EPA and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), the SRSNE Site Group successfully completed a thermal treatment process in 2015. That process resulted in the removal of more than 99% of the targeted waste oils and solvents in soils beneath the Site. The next – and expected final – step of the remedy construction involves consolidating remaining impacted soils and isolating them underneath a permanent, waterproof cap. This next phase is expected to begin late summer 2016. As part of the cap construction, the SRSNE Site Group will also expand the rails-to-trails network, building a new segment of trail between Lazy Lane and Curtiss Street.

In 2005, EPA issued a Record of Decision (referred to as a ROD) describing the multi-step environmental cleanup plan for the SRSNE Site. A group of companies referred to as the SRSNE Site Group reached agreement with EPA in 2009 to carry out the cleanup.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN

EPA has proposed three modifications to the remedy described in the 2005 Record of Decision, and those changes are subject to public review. The changes – summarized in a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) – are described on the back of this fact sheet.

**The comment period will be open from August 4, 2016 to September 2, 2016.**

To review the draft ESD, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/srs](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/srs), the Southington Public Library, or contact one of the project representatives listed on this fact sheet. Written comments must be submitted to Karen Lumino, EPA Remedial Project Manager, by mail or e-mail by Sept. 2, 2016. See contact information at right.

### THERMAL TREATMENT COMPLETE

The first phase of the remedy occurred between 2010 and 2013, and involved preparing the site for subsequent work. This work included clearing the site, changing drainage patterns, and providing utility connections. The new utility connections were required for the thermal treatment process, a cleanup approach used to remove and collect contaminants. To conduct the thermal treatment, which was carried out between 2013 and 2015, a network of 607 heating probes and 551 vapor recovery wells were installed in the location of the former SRSNE Operations Area. A lightweight insulating and airtight concrete barrier was placed on top of this area. The probes were used to heat the soils and evaporate the chemicals from the soil for extraction by the recovery wells, where the chemicals were collected for further treatment. During two phases of heating, nearly 500,000 pounds of waste oils and solvents

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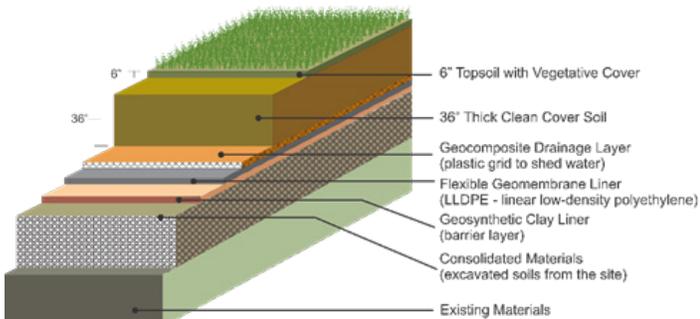
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[www.epa.gov/superfund/srs](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/srs)

were safely removed from the soils. Confirmation samples showed that the concentrations of the targeted pollutants in soil were at or below the cleanup goals following thermal treatment, and that more than 99.5% of the contamination was removed. A total of 170 individual monitoring points were used to monitor system performance and confirm safe and effective operation.

#### The multi-layer engineered cap



#### NEXT STEP IN THE CLEANUP – CAP CONSTRUCTION

From 1955 until 1991, the SRSNE Site was operating as a used solvent processing facility. For a period of 10 years (1957-1967), the waste materials generated during processing were disposed onsite, and for an additional period of time, some of the wastes were burned onsite. As a result of these historical operations, there are five locations on the SRSNE Site property outside the area addressed by the thermal treatment where concentrations of contaminants are above target cleanup levels. The soils in these five areas will be excavated and consolidated into one location in the former Operations Area, then the entire area, approximately 2 acres, will be covered with a permanent, waterproof cap. The multi-layer cap (shown in the image above) will provide a protective barrier, preventing Site workers, neighbors, and others in the community from coming into contact with chemicals remaining in the Site soils. Construction of the cap is expected to begin late summer 2016. Long-term monitoring will be conducted to verify that the cap remains stable and protective. The cap is compliant with the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and serves as an engineered barrier under the Connecticut Remediation Standard Regulations.

#### SITE ENHANCEMENTS: RAILS TO TRAILS AND SOLAR

Throughout the planning and design of the final cleanup activities, the SRSNE Site Group, EPA and CT DEEP have been exploring possibilities for incorporating enhancements to the project



to provide long-term benefits to the community. With that in mind, the team looked for ways to support recreational opportunities in Southington and help expand the local rails-to-trails corridor. Two miles of the trail through the center of Southington and another two-mile stretch on the southern side of town are already complete. The final phase of the trail is a three-mile segment on the northern side of town that will cross the Site property. The SRSNE Site Group has committed to paving the entire trail route between Lazy Lane and Curtiss Street and adding trail parking. The trail is seen as a major link in the plan to complete the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail from New Haven to Massachusetts.

Another enhancement added to the design is the proposed construction of a solar array on top of the waterproof cap. Maintenance and monitoring of the cap and groundwater conditions at the Site will continue over the long term, so the goal is to generate power with the solar array to offset some of these long-term power needs and make the cleanup action sustainable.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN

EPA has issued a draft Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to describe three modifications to the formal cleanup plan presented in the 2005 ROD. The proposed changes are:

- **A smaller cap area.** The original plans called for the cap to extend over a portion of the Site extending north from the former SRSNE Operations Area along the railroad tracks nearly to Lazy Lane. During the planning phase, the design was modified to dig up soils from a targeted area along the tracks, treat them with the thermal treatment system, and consolidate the soils under the cap. The area along the

former railroad tracks was then backfilled with clean soil. As a result of this change, more soils were subject to treatment, and the final footprint of the cap will be smaller.

- **Change to the water treatment plan.** Concentrations of contaminants in Site groundwater are now low enough that onsite treatment is no longer required. Instead, the water can be discharged to the sewer system for treatment at the Southington Water Pollution Control Authority. The success of treatment efforts in place since 1995 and ongoing natural recovery mean that the aging onsite treatment system has served its purpose, and can be retired.
- **Confirming target cleanup levels.** EPA and CT DEEP have confirmed the targeted soil cleanup levels for dioxin. The selected limits – which are based on sampling performed at the Site from 2010 through 2016 – are lower than what was considered in the 2005 ROD, and consistent with EPA and CT DEEP requirements.

The public has the opportunity to review and comment on these changes for a period of 30 days. To review the draft ESD, visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/srs](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/srs); the Southington Public Library or contact any of the project representatives.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cleanup work at the fully fenced-in Site will be conducted in a safe and orderly manner, following the guidelines established in a Health & Safety Plan and other detailed plans prepared specifically for this project. Activities will be monitored in order to maintain safe conditions in the work zones and surrounding areas.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:

If you would like more information about the cleanup activities or other environmental plans at the SRSNE Site, please contact any of the project representatives.

- **Shannon Pociu**, Project Manager CT DEEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 424-3564, [shannon.pociu@ct.gov](mailto:shannon.pociu@ct.gov)
- **Bruce Thompson**, Supervising Contractor/Project Coordinator, **de maximis, inc.** 200 Day Hill Road, Suite 200, Windsor, CT 06095, (860) 298-0541, [brucet@demaximis.com](mailto:brucet@demaximis.com)
- [www.srsnesite.com](http://www.srsnesite.com)

More information is also available at the **Southington Public Library**, 255 Main Street, Southington, CT 06489, (860) 628-0947, [www.southingtonlibrary.org](http://www.southingtonlibrary.org)