



# Solvents Recovery Service of New England, Inc. 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.

## SITE BACKGROUND:

The SRSNE Site is located on approximately 14 acres of land along Lazy Lane and the Quinnipiac River in Southington. From approximately 1955 until closure of the facility in 1991, used solvents were received from customers and processed to remove impurities. The recovered solvents were returned to the customer or sold to others for reuse. Waste materials generated during processing were disposed onsite from 1957 until 1967. Subsequently, materials were either burned onsite or transported to a licensed disposal facility. In the 1970s, the State of Connecticut issued an order to stop the burning of waste, and in 1991 all operational activities at the Site ended.

In 1990, EPA began a remedial investigation to identify the nature and extent of environmental impacts resulting from historical operations at the Site. A number of investigations and cleanup actions have been completed since then including excavating and disposing of contaminated soils; collecting and treating groundwater; and cleaning and demolishing buildings and storage tanks in the former Operations Area of the Site.

## THE CLEANUP PLAN:

In 2005, EPA issued the Record of Decision (ROD), which selected the final cleanup plan for the Site. In 2009, a group of companies referred to as the SRSNE Site Group reached an agreement with EPA to carry out the cleanup activities described in the ROD. The key elements of the remedy – which is designed to control and treat sources of pollution in the soil and groundwater at the Site – are as follows:

- Remove and treat waste oils and solvents present in the ground in the former SRSNE Operations Area using a process called in situ (“in place”) thermal treatment;
- Excavate hotspots of soil and wetland soil, and consolidate them into one location in the former Operations Area where they will be covered with a permanent, waterproof cap;
- Continue to pump and treat that portion of the groundwater where federal and state drinking water standards are currently not being met, and monitor groundwater across the Site to make sure levels of contaminants continue to decline;
- Place restrictions on future use of the property and groundwater; and
- Carry out long-term monitoring to make sure all the elements of the remedy continue to perform as expected.

## KEY CONTACTS:

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### LEARN MORE AT:

[www.srsnesite.com](http://www.srsnesite.com)  
[www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/srs](http://www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/srs)

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**OPEN HOUSE AT THE SRSNE SITE**  
(across from the Southington Police Department)

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2013  
10 AM - 3 PM**

This is an opportunity for the public to see the work in progress at the Site, and to ask any questions they might have of the EPA, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), and representatives of the consultants and contractors implementing the work on behalf of the SRSNE Site Group.

A key component of the cleanup plan is the in situ thermal treatment of waste oil and solvents in the former Operations Area. In this process, soil beneath the Site will be heated with probes placed below the ground surface. This causes the contaminants to move out of the soil into recovery wells so they can be extracted and treated above ground. A barrier placed on top of the ground in the treatment area prevents chemicals from being released into the air. EPA estimates that it will take approximately six months to remove the waste oils and solvents from the two-acre treatment area, but may go on longer, if EPA determines that it is needed. Thermal treatment and the excavation of targeted areas of soil will reduce the amount of chemicals present in the ground, preventing them from continuing to serve as a source of pollution to groundwater.

The permanent and waterproof cap that will be installed over the excavated soils and the restrictions established to limit future use of the property and groundwater will remain in place after the active cleanup work is complete to prevent Site workers, neighbors, and others in the community from coming into contact with any chemicals remaining in the soil and groundwater. Long-term monitoring will verify that the soil cap remains stable, and, that levels of chemicals in groundwater continue to decrease through natural processes following treatment. In addition, groundwater that contains chemicals exceeding safe limits will continue to be collected and treated.

## **SITE PREPARATION & CLEANUP PROGRESS:**

The SRSNE Site Group has already completed a number of remedial activities at the Site. The groundwater containment system, which has been operating since 1995, has to date removed over 16,000 pounds of contamination from groundwater. The potential for vapor intrusion from the SRSNE plume on businesses along Queen Street was evaluated, and found not to be a concern. Ecologists have mapped the locations of wetlands at the Site and evaluated conditions of the local habitat to guide replanting and restoration work after thermal treatment and construction on the cap is finished. Several additional deep bedrock groundwater monitoring wells were installed bringing the number in the monitoring network to more than 160 wells. Samples collected from these wells provide data used to periodically evaluate groundwater conditions at the Site and to gauge progress toward meeting federal and state drinking water standards.

To prepare the Site for the in situ soil treatment, construction crews completely regraded the former Operations Area; worked with AT&T to reroute an existing fiber optic line to avoid the construction zone; relocated a drainage culvert that runs across the property; excavated contaminated soils from along the former railroad tracks, and installed fencing around the Site. The existing sheet pile wall, which is a component of the groundwater containment system, was lengthened to reduce the amount of cooler groundwater that flows into the thermal treatment area, allowing the soils to be heated more effectively.

## **PLANNED CLEANUP WORK FOR 2013:**

In April, construction crews were back out at the Site after the winter shutdown to begin installation of the estimated 1,200 wells that will be needed to heat the soils, collect the chemicals driven out of the soil, and monitor the process. Drilling is expected to continue through August 2013. Design of the above-ground portion of the thermal system, where the extracted chemicals will be treated, has been through EPA and CTDEEP review and is in the process of being finalized. Once the system is ready, thermal treatment is expected to last for approximately six months, unless EPA and CTDEEP determine that additional treatment is needed.

Once thermal treatment of the soils beneath the former Operations Area is complete, contaminated soil and wetland soil excavated from elsewhere on Site will be placed in the former Operations Area and an approximately three acre area will be permanently capped. The cap is required to prevent exposure to contaminants in the surface soils that cannot be cleaned up using thermal technology.

Groundwater quality will be monitored across the Site throughout active cleanup work. The next round of routine sampling is scheduled for May 2013. Groundwater will continue to be captured and treated until state and federal drinking water standards have been met. Long-term monitoring of the cap and groundwater treatment system will be carried out after the cleanup work is complete to verify that all the elements of the remedy continue to perform as expected. Additionally, every five years the remedy will be evaluated to ensure that it remains protective of human health and the environment.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

The cleanup efforts at the Site are being constructed in a way that supports recreational development in Southington. A rails-to-trails corridor across the town is progressing in multiple phases. The first phase – two miles of trail in the center of Southington – is complete and construction of a two-mile stretch on the southern side of town was completed in May 2011. The final phases of the trail, which are planned for the northern side of town, will cross the Site property. The SRSNE Site Group has committed to paving the entire trail route between Lazy Lane and Curtiss Street. The trail is seen as a major link for the further revitalization of downtown Southington.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

All work at the fully fenced-in Site will be conducted in a safe and orderly manner, following the guidelines established in a Health and Safety Plan and other detailed plans prepared specifically for this project. All activities will be monitored to verify we are maintaining safe conditions in the work zones and surrounding areas. This includes air monitoring at the perimeter of the Site during operation of the in situ thermal treatment.

## **ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:**

If you would like more information about the environmental activities or monitoring plans at the Solvents Recovery Service of New England, Inc. Site, please contact any of the project representatives:

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