

Newark Bay

Site Description

Newark Bay is located at the confluence of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers between the cities of Newark and Elizabeth, NJ to the west, the city of Jersey City, NJ and the town of Bayonne, NJ to the east, and Staten Island, NY to the south. Newark Bay is part of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The Newark Bay Study Area is defined as a 6-mile long and 1-mile wide section of Newark Bay, including portions of the Hackensack River, Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull.

Sediments in the Newark Bay Study Area contain PCBs, mercury, DDT, dioxins, pesticides and metals. Industrial activities from numerous companies in the area have contributed to hazardous substances found in the sediments.

The Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (site) was divided into three operable units (OUs): the upland site at 80 and 120 Lister Avenue properties (OU1), Lower Passaic River Study Area (OU2) and Newark Bay Study Area (OU3). See the Passaic River database entry for additional information on OU1 and OU2. The status of OU3 is described below.

As of July 2007, the Newark Bay Study Area was in the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase and there were no remedies selected, implemented, designed or constructed.

Potential Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC) is a successor to the Diamond Shamrock Company. OCC is performing Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study activities in the Newark Bay Study Area under the Superfund program.

Because of the tidal nature of the Passaic River, the areal extent of contamination extends beyond the mouth of the Passaic River. To determine the boundaries and extent of contamination, a study is being performed on Newark Bay and its tributaries.

Cleanup Approach and Remedial Activities

Currently, a *Do Not Catch; Do Not Eat* advisory for all blue crab in the Newark Bay Study Area is in effect.

On February 13, 2004, the EPA and OCC signed an Administrative Order on Consent to perform a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) for Newark Bay, which included portions of the Hackensack River, Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull. The AOC allows the EPA to maintain oversight of the Newark Bay work and to provide that the work is conducted consistent with the Lower Passaic River Study.

In 2004, Tierra Solutions, Inc. (TSI), on behalf of OCC, prepared and submitted the *Phase I Newark Bay Study Area Remedial Investigation Work Plan — Sediment Sampling and Source Identification Program Newark Bay, New Jersey* (Work Plan). The Work Plan consisted of three volumes. Volume 1 (Inventory Report) was approved by the EPA in 2004. Volumes 2 and 3 were subsequently revised and approved in September 2005. The Phase I field work activities were performed from October through December 2005.

TSI and the EPA are currently working together to develop plans for subsequent phases of the RI.

The estimated cost for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of Newark Bay and its tributaries is unavailable.

Scheduled Activities

There are currently no scheduled activities for this site. Subsequent phases of the RI will be completed some time in the future after TSI and EPA finalize plans for subsequent phases.

References

Tierra Solutions, Inc. 2004. *Newark Bay Study Area Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) — Sediment Sampling and Source Identification Program Newark Bay, New Jersey-Revision 0*. Volume 1 of 3. June 2004.

Tierra Solutions, Inc. 2005. *Newark Bay Study Area RIWP — Sediment Sampling and Source Identification Program — Revision 1*. Volumes 2 and 3. September 2005.

EPA. 2004. Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. February 13, 2004.

EPA. 2006. EPA Region 2 NPL Site Fact Sheet. Diamond Alkali Company. September 2006 (<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/0200613c.pdf>).

EPA. 2006. Second Five Year Review Report for Diamond Alkali Superfund Site. July 2006. (<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/FiveYearDiamondJuly2006.pdf>)