

Nov 3, 1993

**National Oil and Hazardous
Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
National Priorities List**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Delete the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Site from the National Priorities List: Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II announces its intent to delete the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Site (Site) from the National Priorities List (NPL) and requests public comment on this action. The NPL constitutes Appendix B to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which EPA promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended. EPA and the State of New Jersey have determined that no further cleanup by responsible parties is appropriate under CERCLA. Moreover, EPA and the State have determined that CERCLA activities conducted at the Site to date have been protective of public health, welfare, and the environment.

DATES: Comments concerning this Site may be submitted for thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to:

George Pavlou, Acting Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
26 Federal Plaza, Rm. 737
New York, New York, 10278

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Lance R. Richman, P.G.
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
26 Federal Plaza, Rm. 13100
New York, New York 10278
(212) 264-6695

Comprehensive information on this Site is available through the EPA Region II public docket, which is located at EPA's Region II office and is available for viewing, by appointment only, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Requests for appointments to view this information in the Regional public docket should be directed to Mr. Lance R. Richman, P.G.

Background information from the Regional public docket is also available for viewing at the Site's Administrative Record depository located at:

Ringwood Library
145 Skylands Road
Ringwood, New Jersey 07456
(201) 962-6256

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II announces its intent to delete the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Site (Site) from the National Priorities List (NPL) and requests public comment on this action. The NPL constitutes Appendix B to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which EPA promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended. EPA identifies sites that appear to present a significant risk to public health, welfare, or the environment and maintains the NPL as the list of those sites. Sites on the NPL may be the subject of remedial actions financed by the Hazardous Substances Superfund Response Trust Fund (Fund). Pursuant to Section 300.425(e)(3) of the NCP, any site deleted from the NPL remains eligible for Fund-financed remedial actions if conditions at the Site warrant such action.

EPA will accept comments concerning this Site for thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section II of this notice explains the criteria for deleting sites from the NPL. Section III discusses procedures that EPA is using for this action. Section IV discusses how the Site meets the deletion criteria.

II. NPL Deletion Criteria

The NCP establishes the criteria the Agency uses to delete sites from the NPL. In accordance with 40 CFR Section 300.425(e), sites may be deleted from the NPL where no further response is appropriate. In making this determination, EPA will consider whether any of the criteria have been met:

(i) EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that responsible or other parties have implemented all appropriate response actions required; or

(ii) All appropriate Fund-financed responses under CERCLA have been implemented and EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that no further cleanup by responsible parties is appropriate; or

(iii) Based on a remedial investigation, EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that the release poses no significant threat to public health or the environment and, therefore, taking of remedial measures is not appropriate.

III. Deletion Procedures

The NCP provides that EPA shall not delete a site from the NPL until the state in which the release was located has concurred, and the public has been afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed deletion. Deletion of a site from the NPL does not affect responsible party liability or impede Agency efforts to recover costs associated with response efforts. The NPL is designed primarily for informational purposes and to assist Agency management.

EPA Region II will accept and evaluate public comments before making a final decision to delete. The Agency believes that deletion procedures should focus on notice and comment at the local level. Comments from the local community may be most pertinent to deletion decisions. The following procedures were used for the intended deletion of the Site:

1. On September 29, 1988, EPA Region II executed a Record of Decision (ROD) which states that there is no identifiable ground-water contaminant plume at the Site, and contamination is not entering the surface waters which drain the Site. However, a long-term ground-water and surface-water monitoring program was initiated as described in the ROD. The State concurred with the ROD.
2. EPA Region II has subsequently recommended deletion of the Site. The State of New Jersey, in its letter of July 23, 1993, has concurred with this recommendation. EPA Region II has made all relevant documents available in the Regional office and local site information

repository.

3. Concurrent with this National Notice of Intent to Delete, a local notice has been published in local newspapers and has been distributed to appropriate federal, state and local officials, and other interested parties. This local comment announces a thirty (30) day public comment period on the deletion.

The comments received during the comment period will be evaluated before any final decision is made. EPA Region II will prepare a Responsiveness Summary which will address the comments received during the public comment period.

The deletion process will be completed upon the EPA Region II Regional Administrator placing a notice in the **Federal Register**. The NPL will reflect any deletions in the next final update. Public notices and copies of the Responsiveness Summary will be made available to local residents by Region II.

IV. Basis for Intended Site Deletion

The Site consists of approximately 500 acres in a historic mining district in the Borough of Ringwood, which is located in the northeast corner of Passaic County, New Jersey. The Ringwood Mines are a series of iron ore mines that operated almost continuously from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. In 1965, Ringwood Realty Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company (Ford), obtained control of the Site property. Beginning in 1967 and until the mid-1970s, Ringwood Realty used the Site to deposit waste products from the Ford factory in Mahwah, New Jersey. The waste products included car parts, solvents and paint sludge. Some of these wastes were deposited on the ground surface in natural and man-made depressions, and some were allegedly dumped into the mine shafts.

Pursuant to a March 1984 Section 3013 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and Ford, Woodward-Clyde Consultants was retained to perform the field studies and conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI was conducted in four phases between March 1984 and April 1988 under EPA oversight. Six different media were sampled during the RI: seep water, soils (paint sludge waste), overburden (upper aquifer) ground water, deep bedrock ground water, surface water and stream sediments. Results were as follows:

A ground-water contaminant plume was not identified for any of the contaminants found in any areas at the Site. Ground-water contamination occurred at a low level, and was scattered and generally confined to paint sludge locations. No detectable migration of ground-water contamination was identified.

Three rounds of surface water samples were collected along with seep water samples. No significant contamination was found.

Arsenic was found in stream sediment samples from Park Brook and Peters Mine Brook. The highest concentration found was 31 parts per million (ppm). Arsenic concentrations as high as 13.5 ppm were found in upstream samples.

Paint sludge waste was identified at four locations at the Site. The paint sludge was sampled and analyzed to determine a waste classification. The paint sludge was identified as EP (extraction procedure) toxic for lead.

Beginning in October of 1987, Ford and its contractors (in accordance with an EPA approved work plan) excavated and removed 7,000 cubic yards of surficial paint sludge containing lead and arsenic from four areas at the Site under an Administrative Order issued by EPA in June of 1987. The paint sludge was disposed of at an out-of-state facility in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

The Record of Decision for the Site was signed by the Acting Regional Administrator of Region II, William J. Muszynski, P.E., on September 29, 1988. EPA's selected remedy for this Site had three components:

1. Achieving health-based levels, including State and Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), in the upper aquifer of the Site through natural attenuation processes. Remediation of ground-water contamination was evaluated and rejected in the ROD since extraction of the ground-water would have diluted levels to below treatment standards. The low levels and sporadic occurrence of ground-water contamination make ground-water treatment impractical. In addition, since the paint sludge removal has eliminated the suspected source of surficial ground-water contamination, ground-water quality should improve without further remediation.
2. Implementing a long-term surface-water and ground-water monitoring program to confirm that ground-water contamination meets or is below health-based levels and to protect against future threats to the ground water and surface water throughout the Site.
3. Performing confirmatory test pitting and soil sampling, along with possible removal of contaminated soils or sludge.

In October of 1989, additional paint sludge was uncovered in

the southern section of the O'Connor Disposal Area within the Site. During the excavation of this additional paint sludge which began in January of 1990, a total of sixty-one (61) drums were discovered, some which contained liquid and solid waste. Approximately twenty (20) 55-gallon drums of liquid and solid waste were removed and disposed of off the Site. Seventeen (17) one cubic yard pelletized containers which contained excavated drums and their contents, three drums containing residual materials associated with the Site, and seven hundred and twenty-seven (727) tons of additional paint sludge were also disposed of off the Site. Further geophysical surveys and test pit work were conducted in the O'Connor Disposal Area in 1992 and 1993. No further barrels or hazardous substances were discovered.

Ford, under EPA oversight, has been implementing the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) which is a five year program that is being conducted pursuant to an EPA Administrative Order on Consent executed on August 29, 1989. The first two and one-half years of the EMP have been completed.

After the five year EMP, EPA will reevaluate the monitoring results to ensure that ground water continues to pose no further threat to human health or the environment. Dependent upon this reevaluation, long-term monitoring of the ground water may continue for a period of up to thirty years. Presently, the shallow aquifer is not being used as a potable water source. State restrictions on shallow wells should remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

All the requirements for the deletion of this Site from the NPL have been met.

Post-excavation confirmatory sampling has verified that all removal action criteria for the removal of paint sludge were met.

Extensive geophysical studies along with exploratory test pitting operations did not uncover any further contaminated soils/sludge, or barrels of hazardous substances at the Site.

A conservative assessment of risk attributable to the release of hazardous substances from the Site indicated that the current risk posed by the Site is within an acceptable range.

A long-term monitoring program has been implemented which

provides further assurance that the Site no longer poses any threats to human health or the environment.

The State of New Jersey, in its letter of July 23, 1993, concurred on the deletion of this Site from the NPL.

11/3/93

Date

Kathleen C. Callahan

for William J. Muszynski, P.E.

Acting Regional Administrator

USEPA Region II

RINGWOOD MINES/LANDFILL SITE

BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD, NEW JERSEY



EPA

Region 2

November 1993

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II announces its intent to delete the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Site (Site) from the **National Priorities List (NPL)** and requests public comment on this action. The EPA identifies sites that appear to present a significant risk to public health, welfare, or the environment and maintains the NPL as the list of the highest priority sites.

Deletion of a site from the NPL does not make the site ineligible for later response actions. If such actions are found to be necessary, they can be taken without renominating the site to the NPL. Also, a site can be put back on the NPL if it is later found to pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Words found in **bold** typeface are defined in the glossary on page 6.

BASIS FOR INTENDED SITE DELETION

Background

The Site consists of approximately 500 acres in an historic mining district (Figure 1) in the Borough of Ringwood, which is located in the northeast corner of Passaic County, New Jersey. The Ringwood Mines are a series of iron ore mines that operated almost continuously from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. In 1965, Ringwood Realty Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company (Ford), obtained control of the Site property. Beginning in 1967 and until the mid-1970's, Ringwood Realty used the Site to deposit waste products from the Ford factory in Mahwah, New Jersey. The waste products included car parts, solvents and paint sludge. Some of these wastes were deposited on the ground surface in natural and man-made depressions, and some were allegedly dumped into the mine shafts.

Investigation

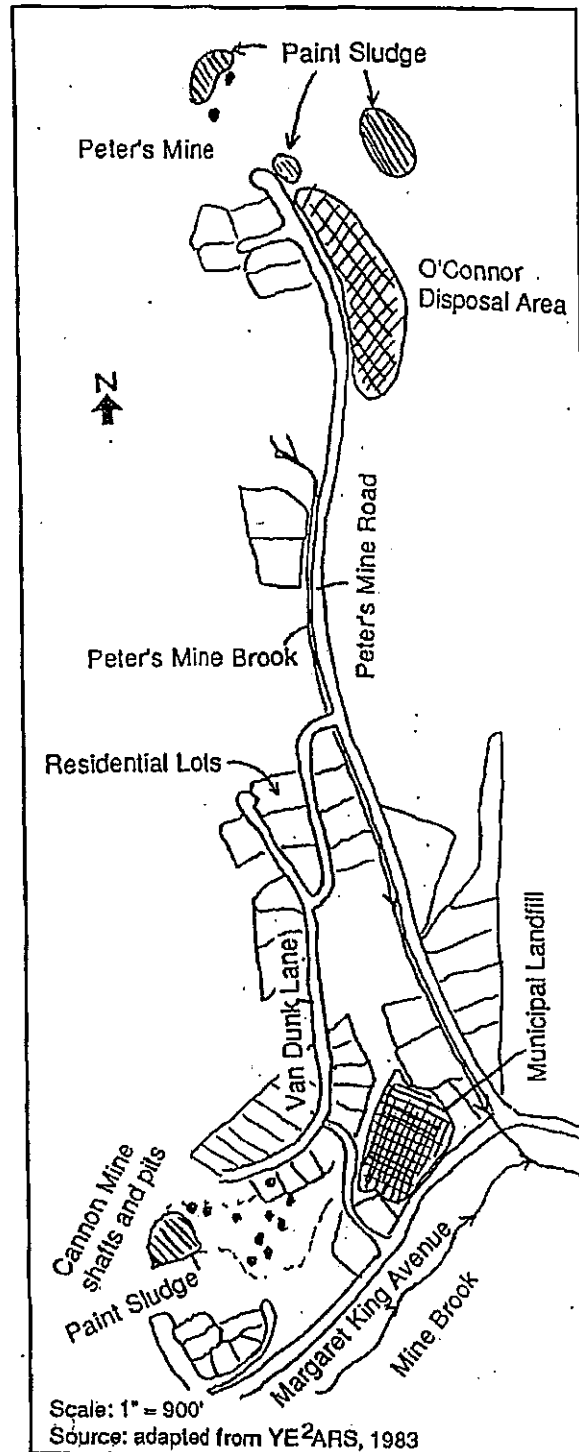
Ford, under EPA oversight, conducted a **Remedial Investigation (RI)** at the Site. The RI was conducted in four phases between March 1984 and April 1988. Six different media were sampled during the RI: seep water, soils (paint sludge waste), overburden (upper aquifer) ground water, deep bedrock ground water, surface water and stream sediments. Results were as follows:

- A ground-water contaminant plume was not identified for any of the contaminants found in any areas at the Site. Ground-water contamination occurs at low levels, is scattered and generally confined to paint sludge locations. No migration of ground-water contamination was identified.
- Three rounds of surface water samples were collected along with seep water samples. No significant contamination was found.
- Paint sludge waste was identified at four locations at the Site. The paint sludge was sampled and analyzed to determine a waste classification. The paint sludge was identified as a hazardous waste because of its lead content.

EPA's Decision

The **Record of Decision (ROD)** for the Site was signed by the Acting Regional Administrator of Region 2, William J. Muszynski, P.E., on September 29, 1988. The ROD describes EPA's selected remedy for this Site, which had three components:

FIGURE 1



- Achieving health-based levels, including State and Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), in the upper aquifer of the Site through natural attenuation processes. Remediation of ground-water contamination was evaluated and rejected in the ROD since the low levels and sporadic occurrence of ground-water contamination make ground water treatment impractical. In addition, since the paint sludge removal has eliminated the suspected source of surficial ground-water contamination, ground-water quality should improve without further remediation.
- Implementing a long-term surface water and ground-water monitoring program to confirm that ground-water contamination meets or is below health-based levels and to protect against future threats to the ground water and surface water throughout the Site.
- Performing confirmatory test pitting and soil sampling, along with possible removal of contaminated soils or sludge.

Site Clean-up Activities

Beginning in October of 1987, Ford and its contractors (in accordance with an EPA approved work plan) excavated and removed 7,000 cubic yards of surficial paint sludge containing lead and arsenic from four areas at the Site. The paint sludge was disposed of at an out-of-state facility in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

In October of 1989, additional paint sludge was uncovered in the southern section of the O'Connor Disposal Area within the

Site. During the excavation of this additional paint sludge which began in January of 1990, a total of sixty-one (61) drums were discovered, some which contained liquid and solid waste. Approximately, twenty (20) 55-gallon drums of liquid and solid waste were removed from the Site and disposed of off-site. Seventeen (17) one cubic yard pelletized containers which contained excavated drums and their contents, three drums containing residual materials associated with the Site, and seven hundred and twenty-seven (727) tons of additional paint sludge were also disposed of off-site. Further geophysical surveys and test pit work were conducted in the O'Connor Disposal Area in 1992 and 1993. No further barrels or hazardous substances were discovered.

Future Site Monitoring

Ford, under EPA oversight, has been implementing the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) which is a five year, long-term surface water and ground-water monitoring program. The first two and one-half years of the EMP have been completed.

After the five year EMP, EPA will re-evaluate the monitoring results to ensure that ground water does not pose a threat to human health or the environment. Dependent upon this re-evaluation, long-term monitoring of the ground water may continue for a period of up to thirty years. State restrictions on shallow wells should remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

Basis for Deletion

All the requirements for the deletion of this Site have been met. Those criteria are:

- Post excavation confirmatory sampling has verified that all removal action criteria for the removal of paint sludge were met.
- Extensive geophysical studies along with exploratory test pitting operations did not uncover any further contaminated soils/sludge, or barrels of hazardous substances at the Site.
- A conservative assessment of risk attributable to the release of hazardous substances from the Site indicated that the current risk posed by the Site is within an acceptable range.
- A long-term monitoring program has been implemented which provides further assurance that the Site no longer poses any threats to human health or the environment.

SITE DELETION FROM THE NPL

The remainder of this fact sheet describes the NPL deletion process, which is the final phase of the Superfund process at a site. Figure 2 illustrates the steps involved in the NPL deletion process, from site completion to the final deletion, beginning with the Site Closeout Report.

The Close Out Report

The Close Out Report demonstrates how the site satisfied EPA's completion requirements. In addition, the report identifies any issues that might be of continued concern to EPA or the involved community and explains why these issues do not preclude the site from completion. The exact format and contents of the report will vary depending on the specific

site. In general, however, the Close Out Report summarizes the site background, including the results of previous investigations and monitoring, ROD findings, remedial design criteria if any, cleanup activities performed, and the community relations activities conducted; identifies any **Operation and Maintenance (O&M)** activities to ensure that the remedy will remain effective; and describes the safety of the site.

CRITERIA FOR NPL DELETION

After the Close Out Report has been approved, a site is considered for deletion from the NPL. The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, the regulation that governs implementation of the Superfund program, states that sites may be deleted from the NPL where no further response is appropriate. In making this determination, EPA considers whether any of the following criteria have been met:

- EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that responsible or other parties have implemented all appropriate response actions required;
- All appropriate responses have been implemented, and EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that no further cleanup by responsible parties is appropriate; or
- Based on a remedial investigation, EPA, in consultation with the State, has determined that the release poses no significant threat to public health and the environment and, therefore, remedial measures are not appropriate.

During the public comment period, the community can provide oral and/or written comments on EPA's proposal to delete the site from the NPL. The Agency considers all comments received during the comment period in their deletion decision.

Step 3: Preparation of the Responsiveness Summary and Publication of the Notice of Deletion

The Region prepares a responsiveness summary of local and national comments. The responsiveness summary provides a summary of all comments received during the public comment period, along with detailed EPA responses. A copy of the responsiveness summary is included in the Regional deletion docket and local information repository. After the decision is made to delete the site, EPA publishes the Notice of Deletion in the Federal Register. The deletion will be included in the next NPL update to be conducted.

GLOSSARY

National Priorities List (NPL): The National Priorities List is EPA's list of the most hazardous waste sites, nationwide, eligible for Federal Superfund cleanup funds.

Operation & Maintenance (O&M): Activities conducted at a site after a response action occurs, to ensure that the remedy continues to be effective.

Record of Decision (ROD): A public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at NPL sites. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the RI with consideration to public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Investigation (RI): An investigation during which information is collected and analyzed to determine the

type and extent of contamination at a site.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by EPA during a comment period on key EPA documents, and EPA's responses to these comments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact:

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