

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Centredale Manor Restoration Site Update

Volume I, No. 1 - September 1999

The U.S. EPA, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Rhode Island Department of Health are working with the Woonasquatucket River Management Action Committee to address dioxin contamination at the Centredale Manor Restoration Site located in North Providence, Rhode Island. Below is an update on cleanup activities.

Introduction

The Centredale Manor Restoration Site encompasses 9.7 acres upon which are located the Centredale Manor and Brook Village Apartments, and approximately 36 acres of the 100 year flood plain of the Woonasquatucket River between Route 44 and the Allendale Dam (see map on page 2).

Prior to 1936, the property was occupied by Centredale Worsted Mills, a woolens manufacturing plant. In the late 1930's, Atlantic Chemical Company began operating on the property, changing names in 1953 to Metro-Atlantic Chemical Company, Inc. and continuing to operate until the late 1970's. New England Container Company, Inc. operated a drum reconditioning and reclamation facility on the southern portion of the site from 1952 until 1969.

In January 1999, the Woonasquatucket River Management Action Committee was created to bring the appropriate agencies, local and state governmental representatives, and environmental resources to bear on the dioxin problem. The Committee is made up of representatives of the US EPA, RI Department of Environmental Management, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, RI Department of Health, the Rhode Island Governor's Office, Towns of North Providence and Johnston, State Senate District #36, and the Urban Rivers Team. The Committee is closely involved with cleanup activities at the site.

There are two phases to the cleanup activities currently underway at the site: Time Critical Removal Activities and the Remedial Investigation. An update on each follows.

**EPA Invites you to Attend an
Open House at the Centredale Manor
Restoration Site**

4:00- 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 19, 1999
Meet EPA representatives at the far side of the site parking lot to learn more about ongoing activities

Time Critical Removal Activities

Time critical removal actions are actions that stop or substantially reduce a release or threatened release of hazardous substances.

EPA initiated time critical removal activities at the site in January 1999. These activities, designed to restrict access to contaminated areas, were completed over the spring and summer, including:

- The collection of over 600 soil samples from the surface and subsurface of the site, residential properties along the river and sediments near the Allendale Dam. Samples have been shipped for dioxin and PCB analysis with a portion of the samples analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, pesticides and metals.
- The installation of a over 800 feet of cedar fence in high visibility areas at the site and over 4000 feet of chain-link fence has been installed in other areas.
- The installation of a chain-link fence at the Lee Romano baseball field to limit access to contaminated sediments in the nearby river.

EPA's next phase of actions at the site will focus on stabilizing the areas where the highest levels of contamination have been found at the surface to lessen the impact that flooding has on carrying additional surface soil contamination into the river. Activities will begin immediately and take the remainder of the fall construction season as well as the spring to complete:

- Install a protective soil cap over a contaminated area south of the Centredale Manor parking lot.
- Install a protective soil cap over the area along the river between Centredale Manor and Brook Village.

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- Conduct a flood evaluation study and flood design work.
- Evaluate reconstruction of the tail race behind Centredale Manor.
- Conduct additional sampling and evaluate options for constructing a protective soil cap over the area at the north end of Allendale Pond.

Remedial Investigation

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to: gather the data necessary to determine the sources, nature and extent of all contamination at the Site; identify how the contamination is migrating; and to evaluate potential public health and environmental risks. Results of the RI are used to perform engineering evaluations regarding how to address the contamination.

Remedial activities underway at the site include:

- Collection of sediment and surface water samples downgradient from the site which may be impacted by contamination.
- Collection of soil samples from residential properties abutting the Lymanville reach of the river.
- Collection of vapor samples at the intersection of surface and ground water at the site to determine possible contaminant pathways into the river.

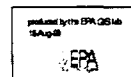
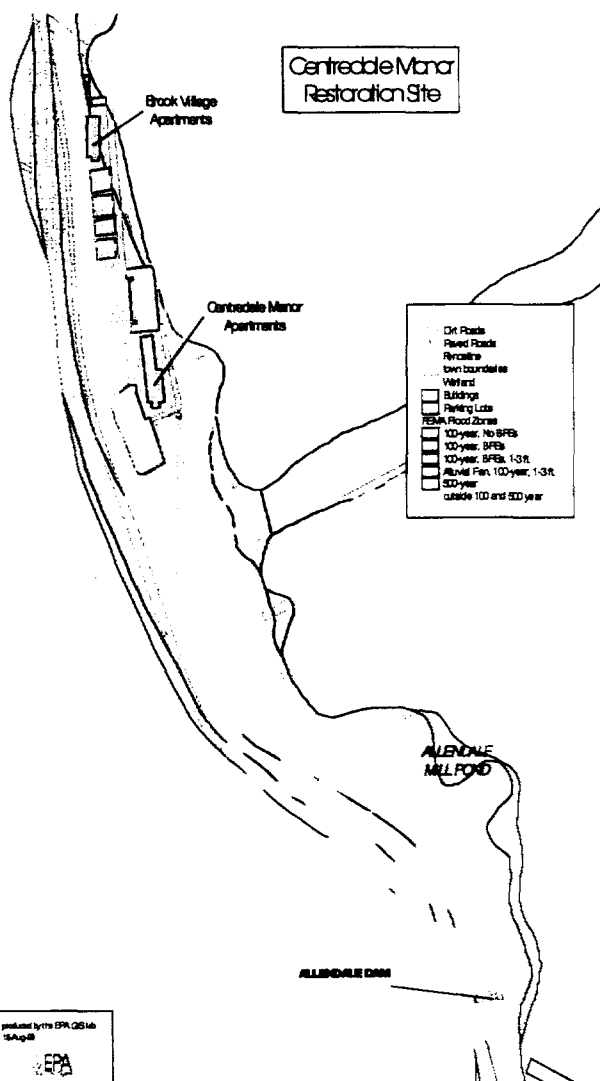
Potentially Responsible Parties

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) include current or past owners or operators of a site, generators of waste currently located at a site and persons who transported hazardous substances to a site they selected. PRPs are considered by EPA to be potentially responsible for contamination and the cost of cleaning up that contamination.

EPA's search for potentially responsible parties began at the site in January 1999 at the same time that activities began in the field to address contamination.

At all Superfund sites, EPA seeks to involve potentially responsible parties early on in the process so that they have the opportunity to either undertake or pay for the cleanup of a site. By involving potentially responsible parties, EPA is often able to avoid spending taxpayer dollars at a site or to recoup taxpayer dollars spent by EPA on the cleanup of a site.

Once identified, PRPs are typically issued a notice letter. The purpose of a notice letter is to open the line of communication between EPA and the PRPs, to notify them of their potential liability, and to request that they participate in conducting or financing certain cleanup activities. EPA has issued notice letters regarding the Centredale Manor Restoration Site to three parties: Centredale Manor Associates Limited Partnership, Brook Village Associates Limited Partnership, and New England Container Company, Inc. ▲



Original Includes Color Coding

Available at the US EPA New England Superfund Records Center, Boston, MA

Community Involvement

Use the Woonasquatucket River responsibly. This includes:

- Do not eat fish, turtles, eels or plants from the Woonasquatucket River;
- do not wade in the shallow water or swim in the river;
- avoid coming into contact with exposed sediments in the river; and,
- obey the warning signs posted along the river.

Walking, running or bike riding along the river are acceptable activities, as are paddling a canoe or kayak on the river. However, people should wash thoroughly after any contact with the river water or sediment. ▲

For More Information

Contact the following people with any questions you may have about site activities.

US EPA at 888-372-7341 and ask for:

Dick Boynton	Project Manager
Ted Bzenas	On-Scene Coordinator
Angela Bonarrigo	Community Relations

RI DEM

Gary Waldeck	401-222-4700 x 7107
Senior Engineer	

RI DOH

Bob Vanderslice	401-222-4948 x 2103
Chief, Office of Health Risk Assessment	

For health related questions and information contact the Family Health Information Line at the R.I. Department of Health
800-942-7434

Additional site information is located at the Information Repositories:

Salvatore Mancini Union Free Library
1810 Mineral Spring Ave., North Providence

Marian J. Mohr Library
1 Memorial Ave., Johnston

and EPA New England's Web Site at:
www.epa.gov/region01

To be added to the EPA's mailing list:
Contact Angela Bonarrigo at 888-372-7341

What is Dioxin

Dioxins are a group of human-made chemicals that are unintentionally produced through numerous industrial activities such as industrial, municipal and domestic incineration. Dioxins have been found throughout the world. Once released into the environment, dioxins remain for very long periods of time and can be cycled from air to soil to plants to animals to humans. Most people are exposed to very small levels of dioxin when they breathe air or consume food, milk or beverages. As a result, dioxins are present in body tissue of all humans. For the general population, more than 90% of the daily intake of dioxins comes from dietary products containing dioxin.

Health effects from dioxins are chronic effects, meaning they might occur as a result of long-term, repeated exposure over an individual's entire lifetime. One meal of fish or one day of wading will not result in significant effects.

At high levels of exposure, or repeated exposure, dioxins are extremely potent chemicals which can produce a variety of effects in animals and humans. The EPA, Department of Health and Human Services, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer have concluded that dioxins are a possible human carcinogen.

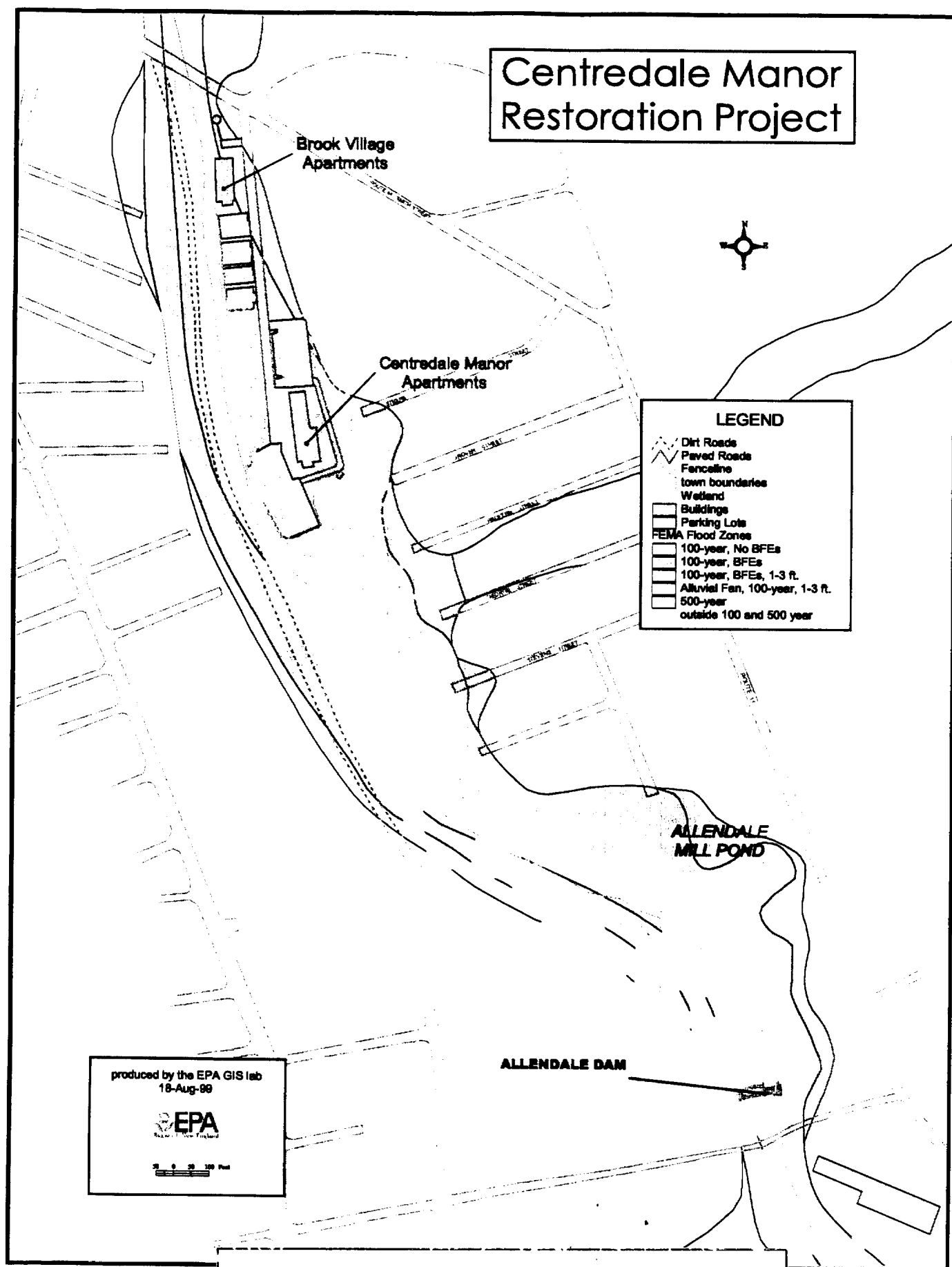
What are PCBs

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a family of odorless, colorless man-made chemicals that are found throughout the environment. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the US in 1977 because of evidence that PCBs build up in the environment and cause harmful effects. Like dioxin, health effects from PCBs are chronic effects, meaning they might occur as a result of long-term, repeated exposure over an individual's entire lifetime. Also like dioxin, PCBs are considered a possible human carcinogen.

What are VOCs

VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) are compounds which unlike dioxin and PCBs do not adhere to soil, but instead are released when they come into contact with the air. While VOCs do evaporate over time, exposure to high levels of VOCs can cause a variety of harmful health effects. ▲

For more information, contact ATSDR at
888-422-8737



Original Includes Color Coding.

Available at the US EPA New England Superfund Records Center,
Boston, MA