

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Centredale Manor Restoration Project Update

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

Time Critical Removal Actions

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

The EPA has completed the time critical removal work at the Project. These activities, designed to restrict access to contaminated areas and to stabilize areas where the highest levels of contamination have been found at the surface, were completed this spring. Below is the final update on these actions:

Protective soil caps and vegetated covers were placed over the contaminated area south of the Centredale Manor parking lot and in the area along the river between Centredale Manor and Brook Village. The caps are designed to lessen the impact that flooding has on carrying additional surface soil contamination to the river.

An elevated berm was constructed to help control flooding of the River.

More than 600 samples were collected from river sediments and surface soils along the shoreline of the pond down to Allendale Dam. Results of the analysis were made available to the public.

More than 5000 feet of fence was installed to restrict public access to contaminated areas.

The entire area from Route 44 to the Allendale Dam was surveyed and blueprinted.

A Unilateral Administrative Order was issued to the responsible parties for completion of the protective caps. The parties cooperated and hired a contractor to complete the second cap, saving thousands of dollars in taxpayer money.

Non-Time Critical Removal Action

Non-Time Critical Removal Actions (NTCRA) stop or substantially reduce a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. Although serious, these releases do not pose an immediate threat to public health or the environment.

A Non-Time Critical Removal Action is being used to address contaminated sediments in the river floodplain and on residential properties along the River between Route 44 and the Lymansville Dam.

The first step is to conduct an Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) which identifies the objectives of the removal action and analyzes various cleanup options. These options will be shared with the public later this summer. Following a public comment period, EPA will make a final decision on how to proceed with the breached Allendale Dam and cleanup of the residential properties. Data collected during earlier phases of the EPA's work is being used to assess the extent of the required action.



The second cap, located between Centredale Manor & Brook Village, was completed in June.

Potentially Responsible Parties

EPA uses the term *Potentially Responsible Parties* or (PRPs) to describe 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.

In Winter 2000, EPA issued notice letters to two newly identified PRPs, Emhart Industries, Inc. and Crown Metro, Inc., bringing the total number of PRPs to five.

In February, EPA issued an order to the PRPs directing them to undertake the spring capping and flood control activities planned for the Site. The PRPs agreed to comply with the order. They completed the final grading and planting of a vegetated cover over the cap located between Brook Village and Centredale Manor. The PRPs have also completed the implementation of flood control measures at the Site. This work was done with oversight by EPA.

EPA is continuing its search for PRPs and is still seeking information regarding former chemical company and drum recycling activities at the Site, as well as information about the condition of the Site just before the apartments were built (Brook Village in October 1976 and Centredale Manor in March 1982). If you have this kind of information, please contact Kristin Balzano at 888-372-7341.

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 Project; identify how contamination is migrating; and evaluate potential public health and environmental risks. Results of the RI are used to perform risk assessments and engineering studies for the permanent solutions to the contamination.

The Remedial Investigation has been underway since August 1999. Much of the soil and sediment sampling between Centredale Manor and the Lymanville Dam has been completed by EPA's contractors. The results have been compiled and are available for public review at the information repositories listed to the left.

EPA is preparing for the next phase of the RI which will focus on evaluating the contaminant migration into the River by the groundwater near the source areas at the Centredale Manor. The RI investigations and the risk evaluations are expected to be completed by Winter 2001, followed by the selection of an engineering approach for the long-term cleanup of the Project.

For More Information

US EPA at 888-372-7341 or visit our Web Site

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For Health Related Questions or Information contact the Public Health Information line at the U.S. Department of Health at 800-368-5858

Additional Data Information is available at the Information Repositories at:

Saltwater Management System Project Files

650 Mineral Spring Ave. Suite 400, Centredale, AL 36007

Mineral Spring Project Files

650 Mineral Spring Ave. Suite 400, Centredale, AL 36007

Visit EPA's Regional Web Sites at:

http://www.epa.gov/region4

Ecological Risk Assessment

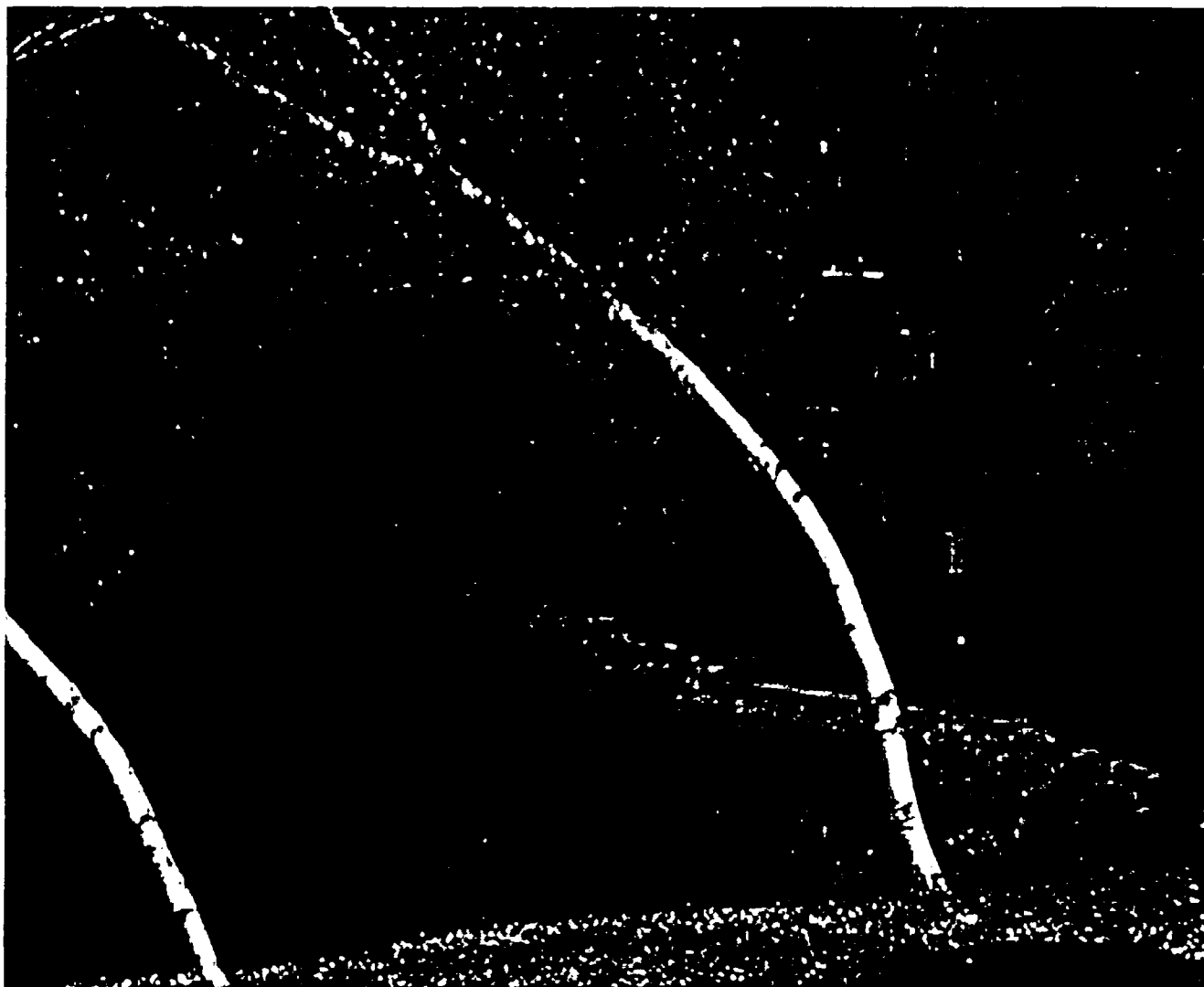
One aspect of the Remedial Investigation is the ecological risk assessment which is conducted to determine the actual or potential effects of a hazardous waste site on the plants and animals (other than domestic pets). The risk assessment looks at the types of contamination, possible routes of exposure, and the environmental species which may be exposed to contamination from a site.

At the current time, EPA is conducting field studies to determine if there is a cause and effect link between contamination at the Site and impacts to the environment. Among the ecological risk assessment are studies of turtles, fish, birds and frogs.

These studies are to determine if there is a reduction in reproductive success, juvenile survival or an absence of species which would be expected to live in the habitat, or any sign of illness amongst the species present in the environment.

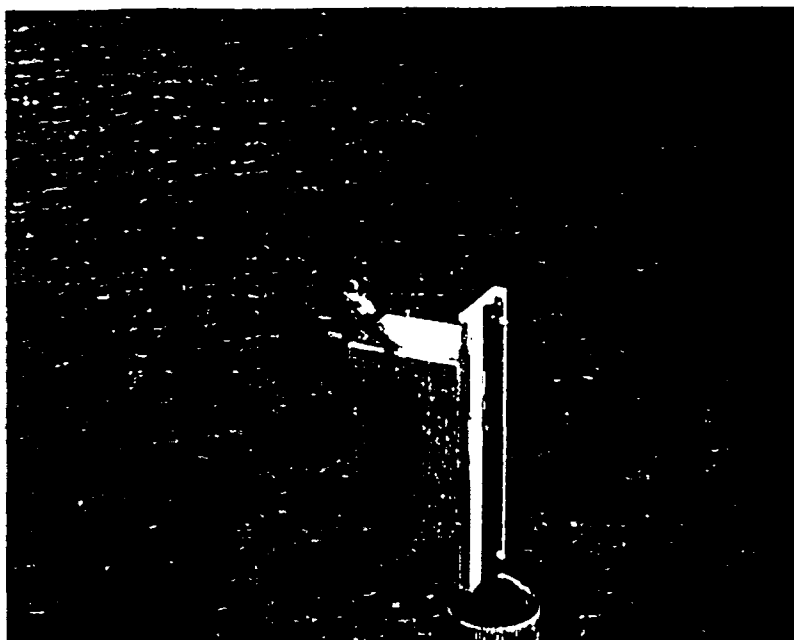
The ecological assessment is expected to be completed by Winter 2000. The results will be included in the Remedial Investigation Report and will help to quantify the full nature and extent of the contamination present at the Site.

The first portion of the ecological risk assessment was a tree swallow study conducted during the spring (see photos on the following pages).



In the early spring, as part of the tree swallow study, nine nest boxes were set up on Allendale Pond and seven nest boxes were set up on Greystone Mill Pond (pictured here) as a reference area in the ecological risk assessment.

Tree swallows arrived in early May and took up residency in the nest boxes.



In mid June, a maximum of three eggs were collected per clutch (nest box) of six eggs.

Collected eggs were carefully placed in labeled carrying cases and transported to a mobile lab.

