

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Wells G&H Superfund Site, Woburn, MA

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 Wells G&H Superfund Site contains five source area properties within an approximately 330-acre area in Woburn, MA. The Site generally consists of the area surrounding two former municipal drinking wells known as Wells G and H, which were located adjacent to the Aberjona River, south of Route 128 (Interstate 95). The groundwater on the 5 properties is impacted by volatile organic compounds (VOCs). As part of the cleanup decision for the Site, In-Situ Volatilization (ISV) was selected as the remedy for soils containing VOCs at the UniFirst Source Area property (15 Olympia Avenue, Woburn, MA).

SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION (SVE) PILOT TEST AT UNIFIRST SOURCE AREA PROPERTY:

EPA determined that In-Situ Volatilization, also known as soil vapor extraction or SVE, should be implemented to address volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soils at the UniFirst source area property. UniFirst Corporation will implement an SVE pilot test on its property beginning in October 2012. Results of the SVE pilot test will lead to a full-scale soil cleanup design that treats soils and helps reduce the potential for subsurface soil vapors to enter the UniFirst building. A copy of the SVE Pilot Test Work Plan as well as other site documents can be found on EPA's web page at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/wellsgh>.

PURPOSE OF THIS FACT SHEET:

From October through November 2012, UniFirst Corporation will implement a SVE pilot test on its property with EPA oversight. The SVE pilot test will apply a vacuum/suction to subsurface soils and remove VOCs from under the building and paved areas on the eastern portion of the property. Specifically, various vacuums will be applied to the subsurface soils at five SVE points (SVE points 1-5). Several soil vapor monitoring (SVM) points

will measure the extent of vacuum applied at each SVE point. The approximate location of contaminated soil and SVE points are illustrated on the attached Figure. The VOCs will be treated through two activated carbon units during pilot test operations, and treated air will be monitored daily. The treatment units will be located inside the UniFirst building. Additional carbon units will be available for installation on the property should additional treatment be necessary. Some of the work to perform the SVE pilot test may happen on evenings and on weekends.

SVE PILOT TEST & DESIGN SCHEDULE:

- October 2012: Install SVE and SVM points and associated soil sampling. It is anticipated that work will begin on October 9th and last for about 3 weeks. Soil boring rigs will be mobilized to the property to install the SVE and SVM points inside and outside the building on the eastern portion of the property.
- October – November 2012: Setup and conduct extraction tests at each SVE point and demobilize from the property. The duration is anticipated for about 4 weeks.
- February/ March 2013: Submit SVE Pilot Test Report for EPA Review.
- Summer 2013: UniFirst Initiates Full-Scale ISV Remedial Design. EPA will review and oversee the Remedial Design process.

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