

SUPERFUND

# Blackburn & Union Privileges

U.S. EPA | SUPERFUND CLEANUP 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 Blackburn & Union Privileges Site located in Walpole, MA was added to the Superfund National Priority List in 1994 and includes industrial properties and undeveloped or residential properties and other areas where contamination has come to be located. Industrial and commercial processes on the site date back to the 1600s. Between 1891 and 1915, the site was used for manufacturing tires, rubber goods, and insulating materials. The crushing of raw asbestos in the manufacture of brake and clutch linings occurred at the site between 1915 and 1937. Various cotton and fabric production processes were conducted at the site from 1937 until 1985.

As a result of these industrial operations, soil, sediment and groundwater are contaminated with inorganic chemicals (including asbestos and metals), volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and highly alkaline compounds.

The site is now in the remedial action phase, focusing on cleanup of the entire site. The Record of Decision (ROD), which details the cleanup goals and the comprehensive cleanup plan developed by EPA, was issued by EPA on September 30, 2008 and is available for review at the Walpole Town Library. Implementation of the cleanup work defined in the ROD is being performed under a Consent Decree (CD) reached by EPA and the Settling Defendants under the Superfund law.

Cleanup work is currently underway on the industrial areas of the Site along South Street, and planning is in progress for groundwater/surface water remediation in this central area and for sediment remediation at Lewis Pond.

## LEWIS POND CLEANUP:

The primary purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide an update on progress towards the next major milestone for the site cleanup – remediation of Lewis Pond. Lewis Pond is located within a central area of the Town of Walpole and the cooperation of local property owners will be essential to achieving this milestone.

One of the next components in the cleanup of the Blackburn & Union Privileges Site is the Lewis Pond Sediment and Floodplain Soil cleanup. Over the past several years, samples were collected from within and around Lewis Pond to identify soil and sediment that will be removed due to its asbestos content and disposed of at a permitted off-site facility. Since that sampling was done, the Settling Defendants and EPA have been finalizing a comprehensive design of the Lewis Pond cleanup. There are multiple areas from which sediment will be removed (see figure attached). The

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## KEY CONTACTS:

### EMILY BENDER

EPA New England  
Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
(617) 918-1037  
bender.emily@epa.gov

### RICH FISHER

EPA New England  
Project Manager  
(617) 918-1721  
fisher.rich@epa.gov

## GENERAL INFO:

### EPA NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Square  
Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(617) 918-1111  
www.epa.gov/region1/

**TOLL-FREE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
1-888-EPA-7341

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final extent of removal will be determined through verification sampling during the cleanup.

The next steps are for the Settling Defendants to select a remediation contractor in order to finalize the specific methodology and work practices necessary to clean up Lewis Pond. The Settling Defendants will prepare construction documents, which will detail the specific clean-up methods, access points, truck routes, operations, and material and equipment storage. These documents will also include a plan for air and environmental monitoring during the construction. EPA and the Settling Defendants will meet with stakeholders, including local residents, to discuss the construction plans, and will also need to work with property owners to access specific properties that abut or

are part of Lewis Pond in order to plan and conduct the cleanup. After the cleanup has taken place, areas of Lewis Pond and adjacent properties disturbed during the cleanup will be restored, also consistent with the approved plans.

Right now we are in pre-construction planning phases. The actual cleanup construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

In parallel with the planning for Lewis Pond, active cleanup work continues on the industrial areas of the Site along South Street, upstream of the Pond.

**ADDITIONAL CONTACT:**

**Robin Chapell**  
 Walpole Health Director  
 (508) 660-7320  
 rchapell@walpole-ma.gov

