

LIGHTMAN DRUM COMPANY WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, NJ

Cleanup Activities

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Background

The Lightman Drum Company site covers about 15 acres along Route 73 in Winslow Township, Camden County, New Jersey. The Lightman Drum Company operated an industrial waste hauling and drum reclamation business at the site from 1974 to 1979. The company stored chemical residues in underground storage tanks, drums, and trailers. The company also emptied drums into a pit in a wooded area on the property.

Facility operations contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals, including chemical powders, pesticides, waste oil, oil sludges, paints, pigment, thinner, ink, residues, ketones, alcohols, and mixed solvents.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) asked EPA to evaluate the site in May 1999. EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in October 1999 and became the lead agency to clean up the site.

There are two plumes, or areas where contaminants are dispersed, of contaminated groundwater at the site. The eastern plume came from the former Waste Storage Tanks and the western plume came from the Unlined Waste Disposal Pit in the wooded area. United Cooperage currently operates a drum brokerage business where they buy, clean, and resell drums on a small portion of the site.

What Has Been Done to Clean Up the Site?

Initial Response

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) oversaw the removal of the underground tanks in 1984, as well as soil sampling in 1987, and soil and groundwater sampling from 1989 to 1990. EPA required that contaminated soil associated with a previously removed underground storage tank be taken out in 2007.

Long-term Response

EPA finalized a cleanup plan, memorialized in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD), in 2009. The site is divided into two operable units. Operable Unit 1 (OU1) covers the contaminated groundwater and Operable Unit 2 (OU2) covers contaminated soil.

The 2009 ROD outlines the plan for OU1 and calls for removing contamination in the groundwater from the former Waste Storage Tank Area and the Unlined Waste Disposal Pit areas. Under EPA oversight, the entities deemed responsible for contamination on the site, known as a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) group, performed several cleanup actions.

The PRP group constructed an air sparging and soil vapor extraction system for groundwater contamination near source areas. This process removes contamination by injecting air directly into contaminated groundwater to pull contaminants from groundwater in the form of vapors. The vapors are vacuumed out of the soil and captured.

The original plan also required a system to extract and treat groundwater from certain highly contaminated spots.

EPA amended its original 2009 ROD for the OU1 groundwater cleanup action in September 2019. Years of groundwater sampling data showed that groundwater hot spots no longer have high contamination. EPA decided to first gauge the effectiveness of the air sparging and soil vapor extraction followed by allowing the larger area of groundwater to naturally recover while being carefully monitored.

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in 2011 to address soil contamination, which is considered Operable Unit 2 (OU2). OU2 is a small area of soil contamination near the former Waste Storage Tank Area. Under EPA's oversight, the PRP group removed contaminated soil using the same soil vapor extraction system connected to the OU1 system.

Based on groundwater sampling, EPA determined that the groundwater areas of highly contaminated groundwater were no longer present. In 2019, EPA issued a ROD Amendment to OU1 changing groundwater remedy in those areas from extraction and treatment to Monitored Natural Attenuation.

NJDEP established a Classification Exception Area (CEA) on January 27, 2020 to prevent the use of the groundwater for drinking water purposes.

What Is the Current Site Status?

The air sparging and soil vapor extraction system began operating in 2013 and removed the majority of the contamination for OU1 and OU2. Data from these areas show dramatic reduction in the contamination levels and that the air sparging and soil vapor extraction have been effective. The system operated for OU1 and OU2 until the end of 2019.

With EPA oversight, the PRP group sampled the soil in June 2021 to determine the progress of the system. The EPA determined that there is still a small area of soil contamination. After soil sampling in late 2023, the EPA and the PRPs agreed to clean up a small area where contamination remains by removing the contaminated soil. The EPA expects the soil removal will be completed by the end of 2024.

As described in the 2019 ROD Amendment, PRPs will sample groundwater as part of the existing Monitored Natural Attenuation well network. This monitoring is ongoing.

JULY 1, 2025

LIGHTMAN DRUM COMPANY WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, NJ

Cleanup Progress

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Cleaning up Superfund sites is a complex, multi-phase process. Learn more:

- [Superfund Cleanup Process](#)
- [A community guide to EPA's Superfund program \(PDF\)](#) (12 pp, 454 KB)

Site Milestones

Milestone	Date(s)
Initial Assessment Completed	02/07/1986
Proposed to the National Priorities List	07/22/1999
Finalized on the National Priorities List	10/22/1999
Remedial Investigation Started	11/13/2000
Remedy Selected	09/30/2009
Final Remedy Selected	09/19/2011
Remedial Action Started	09/27/2012
Final Remedial Action Started	09/27/2012
Construction Completed	09/30/2021
Deleted from National Priorities List	Not Yet Achieved
Most Recent Five-Year Review	Not Yet Achieved
Achieved Sitewide Ready for Anticipated Reuse	Estimated Sep - Nov 2025

Cleanup Schedule by Operable Unit

During cleanup, a site can be divided into a number of distinct areas depending on its complexity. These areas, called operable units (OUs), may address geographic areas, specific problems, or areas where a specific action is required. Examples of typical operable units include construction of a groundwater pump and treatment system or construction of a cap over a landfill.

Select an operable unit. After making a selection, press go to filter the table by operable unit.

Go

Search:

Milestone	Start Date	Completion Date
OU 00 - SITEWIDE		
Administrative Order of Consent <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		09/13/2007
Consent Decree <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		11/12/2008
Removal <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	10/29/2007	10/01/2009
Five-Year Review		Estimated Sep - Nov 2026
OU 01 - ENTIRE SITE		
Administrative Order of Consent <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		11/13/2000
Unilateral Administrative Order <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		06/02/2010
Combined Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	11/13/2000	09/30/2009
Combined Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	03/28/2018	09/30/2019
Record of Decision <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		09/30/2009
Record of Decision Amendment <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		09/30/2019
Remedial Design <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	07/22/2010	09/27/2012
Remedial Design <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	09/11/2020	02/18/2021
Remedial Action <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	09/27/2012	07/19/2022
Long-Term Response Action <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	07/19/2022	
OU 02 - ON-SITE SOILS		
Administrative Order of Consent <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		05/23/2013

Milestone	Start Date	Completion Date
Unilateral Administrative Order <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		09/29/2011
Combined Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	08/10/2010	09/19/2011
Record of Decision <i>(EPA Performed)</i>		09/19/2011
Remedial Design <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	09/29/2011	09/27/2012
Remedial Action <i>(EPA Oversight)</i>	09/27/2012	Estimated Mar - May 2025

Showing 1 to 20 of 20 entries

NOTE: Dates and estimated dates will not display for all milestones. Estimated dates only display for milestones planned within the next three fiscal years. Estimated dates and start dates will not display for the following enforcement milestones: Administrative Order of Consent, Consent Decree and Unilateral Administrative Order. Start dates will not display for the following document milestones: Five-Year Review, Record of Decision, Record of Decision Amendment, Explanation of Significant Differences and Partial NPL Deletion.

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JULY 1, 2025

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Operable Units

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Below, EPA has provided a list of the remedial actions selected pertaining to each operable unit.

EPA issues **Records of Decision (RODs)** to explain which cleanup methods will be used at Superfund National Priorities List sites. EPA has two primary documents that it may use to identify changes to the remedies selected in RODs. EPA uses a **ROD Amendment** when it needs to make a fundamental change to the remedy. EPA publishes an **Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)** for significant changes.

During cleanup, complex sites may be divided into several distinct areas to make the response more efficient. These areas, called **operable units (OUs)**, may address geographic areas, specific problems, or medium (e.g., groundwater, soil) where a specific action is required. The remedies are displayed for the OU numbers indicated in the original decision document. OU numbers may change over time.

EPA is working to improve data quality. The information presented on this page is undergoing review for accuracy and completeness, and may be subject to change.

OU ID	Name	Decision Document	Cleanup Technologies Selected in the Decision Document
00	SITEWIDE	Not applicable	
01	ENTIRE SITE	Record of Decision September 30, 2009	Treatment (other, not otherwise specified, exsitu, onsite) Discharge (vertical well reinjection to contaminated aquifer) Monitored Natural Attenuation Residuals Disposal Air Sparging (physical treatment, insitu) Institutional Controls Monitoring Carbon Adsorption (liquid phase, P&T, exsitu)
01	ENTIRE SITE	Record of Decision Amendment September 30, 2019	Monitored Natural Attenuation ESD/Amd - Remedy Component Removal
02	ON-SITE SOILS	Record of Decision September 19, 2011	Soil Vapor Extraction (insitu) Residuals Treatment/Disposal (offsite)