



EPA Constructs Groundwater Treatment Facility on Caroline Avenue Lawrence Aviation Industries Superfund site

Port Jefferson, Suffolk County, New York

Community Update

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EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the LAI site and activities being conducted, please contact:

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Information Repository

Port Jefferson Free Public Library
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Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting cleanup activities at the Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) site located in Port Jefferson Station, New York. In September 2006, the EPA issued a Record of Decision detailing remedial actions for the site itself, along with ground water impacts to the Village of Port Jefferson. One such remedial activity is the construction of two ground water pump and treatment systems. One system has been constructed and started operating in September 2010. The other system is currently being built approximately one-mile downgradient of the LAI property, at the intersection of Caroline Avenue and Brook Road in the Village of Port Jefferson.

In Spring of 2010, EPA and its contractors conducted a cleaning of the Old Mill Pond and upstream areas of Old Mill Creek. Over 120 cubic yards of material, including house-hold trash, dead vegetation, and other debris was removed and disposed of at an off-site location. Restoration activities near Barnum Avenue Bridge allowed for the planting of native vegetative species of trees and shrubs.

During Summer of 2010, EPA installed the water main that will carry treated water from the facility to the Old Mill Creek. Four-inch piping, along with an electrical conduit, was placed along Caroline Avenue to Barnum Avenue. Piping was also installed along Barnum Avenue between Caroline and the Barnum Bridge, where an outfall was created at Old Mill Creek. A similar discharge line and outfall will be installed at the Old Mill Pond.

On October 18, 2010 EPA broke ground on the construction of the Caroline Avenue groundwater pump and treatment facility. Land preparation and pre-construction activities continued until November 2010. By Thanksgiving, the footings and foundation of the structure were completed. Framing activities started in December 2010 and concluded with a weather tight structure by Christmas Eve.

Current and Continuing Activities

Much work has yet to be accomplished prior to the facility becoming fully operational. Continuing through 2011, EPA will be coordinating activities with local utilities to provide services to the facility, while acquisition and installation of process components are conducted. It is anticipated that the facility will be operating by the summer of 2011, conditions permitting.

EPA plans on operating the facility for approximately 20 years in an effort to bring levels of volatile organic compounds to an acceptable level for protecting human health and the environment.

Questions	Answers
How will the removal of contaminated groundwater benefit me and my neighbors?	The removal of contaminated groundwater will eliminate any harmful vapor that may be coming from the groundwater, through the soil, and into indoor spaces. This activity will improve the quality of life to residents of the village.
What will this system do to the contaminated groundwater? Would any vapors released pose a health risk to residents living nearby, or those utilizing the park?	The pump and treatment system will extract groundwater by using several wells that have been installed at pre-determined depths. The contaminated water will be passed through a series of air strippers and carbon filters that are designed to remove the contaminants of concern from the water. Non-contaminated water will then be placed into the Old Mill Creek.
How much noise will be generated when the facility is operating at capacity?	It is anticipated that all noise generated from the operations of the facility will be in accordance with noise ordinance codes as established by the Village of Port Jefferson and the Town of Brookhaven. Noise reduction techniques have been used in the construction of the facility and others will be utilized when the system is operational.
Who is funding this project?	Funding for this project is through the U.S. EPA Superfund program and not through local tax revenues. Local taxes will not be utilized for the construction, operation, or maintenance activities associated with this project.
What is being done to expedite the removal of contamination from groundwater?	EPA decided to place two pump and treatment systems in an effort to expedite the cleanup process. One plant will be constructed at the Caroline Avenue Field, the other will be located directly on the LAI property in Port Jefferson Station.
What is the time frame for this project?	Construction activities for the groundwater pump and treatment facility started in October 2010 and are projected to continue into Spring of 2011. It is anticipated that the system will be fully operating in Summer 2011. After such time, the actions of extracting contaminated water and removing the contaminants is projected to take approximately 20 years.
Where do I get additional information on the LAI Site located in Port Jefferson Station and EPA activities in the Village?	The webpage provided below and the Port Jefferson Public Library, Reference Desk.
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