

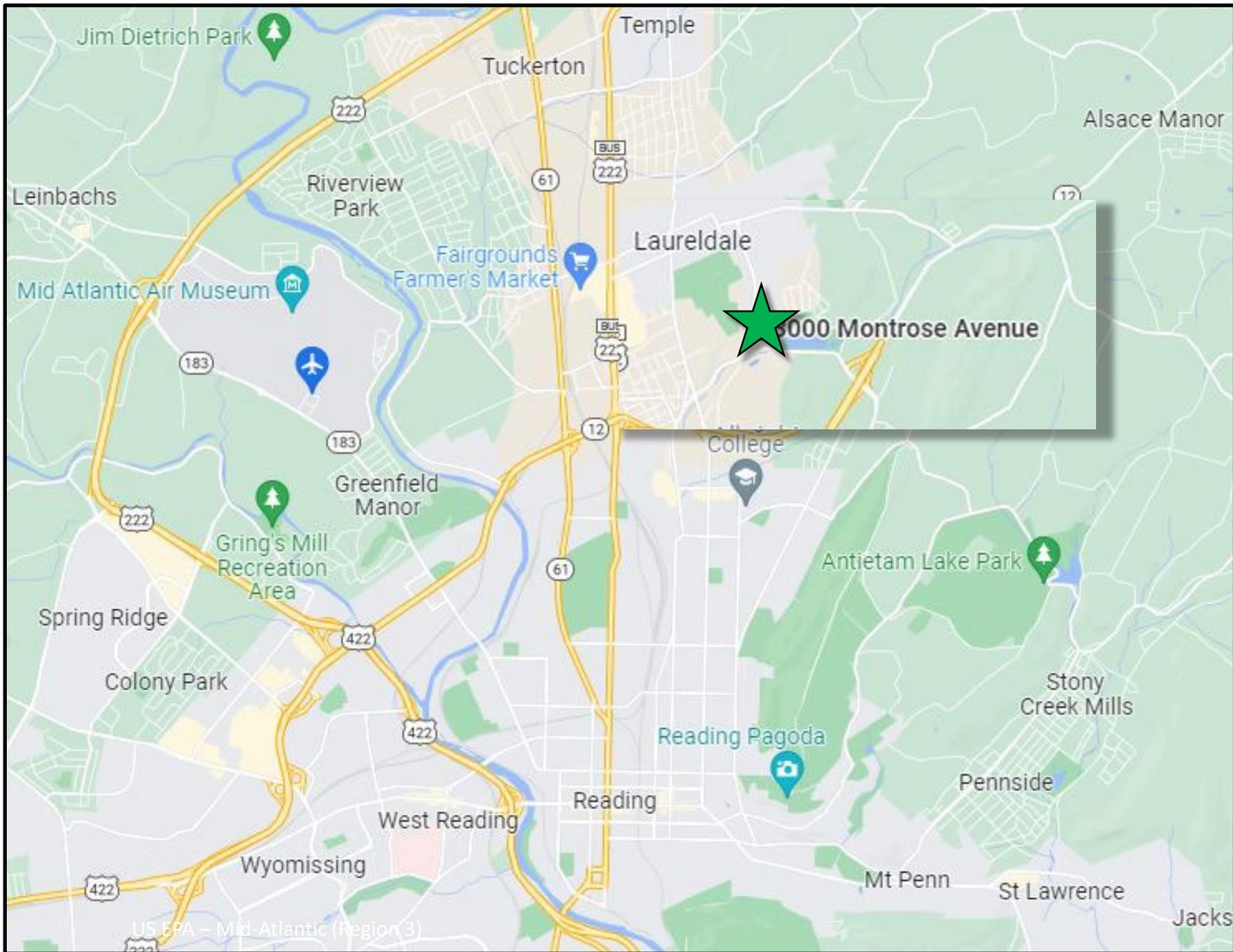
Former Exide Technologies Site

Laureldale, PA

Chris Guzzetti, EPA On-Scene Coordinator
Alex Mandell, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

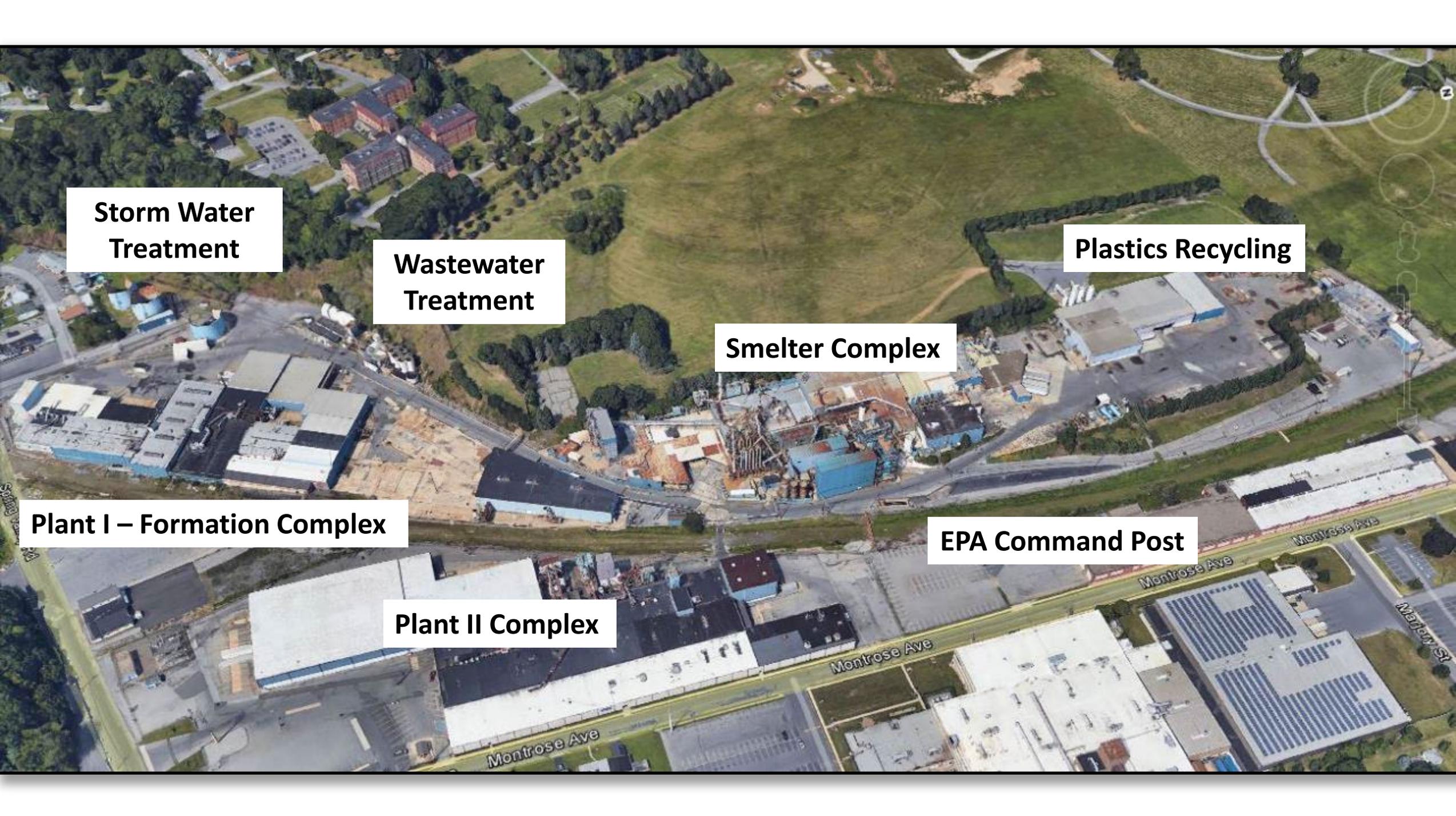
Presentation Agenda

- Site History
 - Cleanup Actions
 - Cleanup Status
 - Next Steps
 - Community Involvement
 - Questions-and-Answers
- 



Site Location

- Berks County
- Located in both Muhlenberg Township and Borough of Laureldale



Storm Water Treatment

Wastewater Treatment

Plastics Recycling

Smelter Complex

Plant I – Formation Complex

EPA Command Post

Plant II Complex

Montrose Ave

Montrose Ave

Montrose Ave

Montrose Ave

Montroy St

Site History

- Beginning in the mid-1930s, Bowers Battery Company owned and operated a battery manufacturing plant at the Site
- The General Battery Corporation purchased the Site in 1958, continuing battery manufacturing operations until the Site was acquired by Exide Technologies in 1987
- Exide operated a lead smelter and recycled lead batteries until 2010, when they discontinued battery manufacturing operations
- In 2013, Exide ceased all lead recycling operations, removed hazardous waste materials from the Site, and focused solely on recycling of non-hazardous plastic materials

Site History (continued)

- **On May 19, 2020**, Exide filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy
- **On November 17, 2020**, the Exide Environmental Response Trust acquired the Site by order of the bankruptcy court
 - Trust was funded with money (\$2,500,000) from the bankruptcy settlement to address known environmental issues associated with the Site
 - Trust monies were depleted rapidly by costs to operate waste and storm water treatment systems, to pay for utilities, and overall maintenance
- **On November 25, 2020**, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requested EPA Superfund assistance in responding to conditions at the Site

Previous Cleanup Actions

Under the oversight of PADEP and EPA's RCRA Corrective Action Program, Exide investigated and/or remediated several impacted areas both on-Site and off-Site.

EPA's Exide Corrective Action Program website:

<https://www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactioncleanups/hazardous-waste-cleanup-exide-trust-reading-aka-former-exide>

Previous Cleanup Actions

- **On-Site:** Exide conducted investigations of:
 - Groundwater
 - Surface water
 - Sediment
 - Surface and subsurface soils
 - Railroad right-of-way drainage ditches
 - Unnamed tributary
 - On-Site waste management units
 - *These units have been capped in place and closed*

Previous Cleanup Actions (continued)

Off-Site: In August 2000, EPA and Exide entered an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) under RCRA. This required Exide to:

- **Investigate** the extent of lead contamination in the soil at properties located in the vicinity of the Site
- **Cleanup** all such properties that were adversely affected by lead contamination and posing unacceptable risk to human health and environment

Removal Site Evaluation

- In May 2020, due to Exide filing for bankruptcy, their work at the Site stopped
- EPA performed an evaluation of the Site in January 2021 and found environmental conditions that needed a cleanup plan
- **In March 2021, EPA began a time critical removal action**

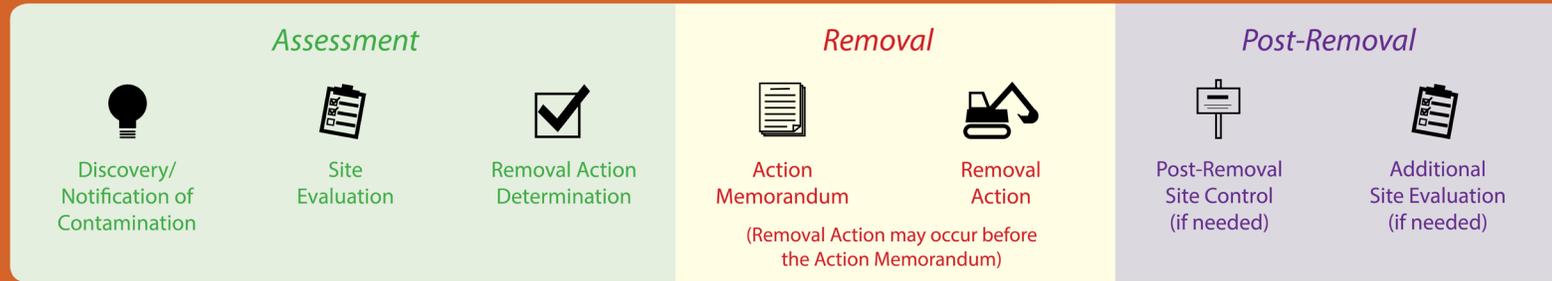


What are Removal Actions?

Removal actions are responses to releases that threaten the public health, welfare, or the environment. These actions tend to be swift in order to address immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESSES

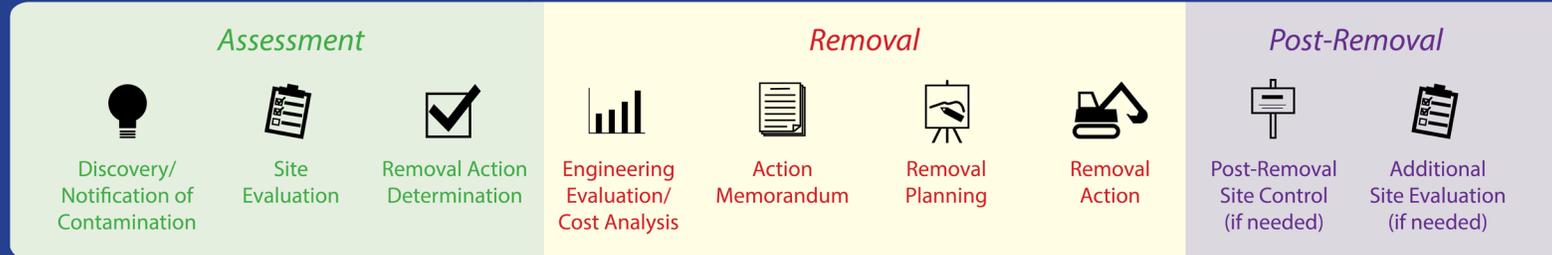
EMERGENCY RESPONSE - INITIATED WITHIN HOURS OR DAYS



TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL - SIX-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD AVAILABLE



NON-TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL - GREATER THAN SIX-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD AVAILABLE



Community involvement is integral to the entire process

Time-Critical Removals are situations for which EPA determines that a removal is appropriate and on-site removal activities must begin within six months.

THE SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESS

TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL - SIX-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD AVAILABLE

Assessment



Discovery/
Notification of
Contamination



Removal
Site
Evaluation



Removal Action
Determination

Removal



Action
Memorandum



Removal
Planning



Removal
Action

Post-Removal



Post-Removal
Site Control
(if needed)



Additional
Site Evaluation
(if needed)

Community involvement is integral to the entire process

Current Cleanup Actions

Beginning in April 2021, the removal program began decontamination of on-Site baghouses and associated ductwork.



Decontamination Process

- Removal of lead-contaminated components of process equipment
 - Vacuum out all accessible and visible dusts
 - Pressure washing and scrubbing surfaces using an environmentally-friendly lead cleaning solution
 - Collecting and treating rinse water as appropriate
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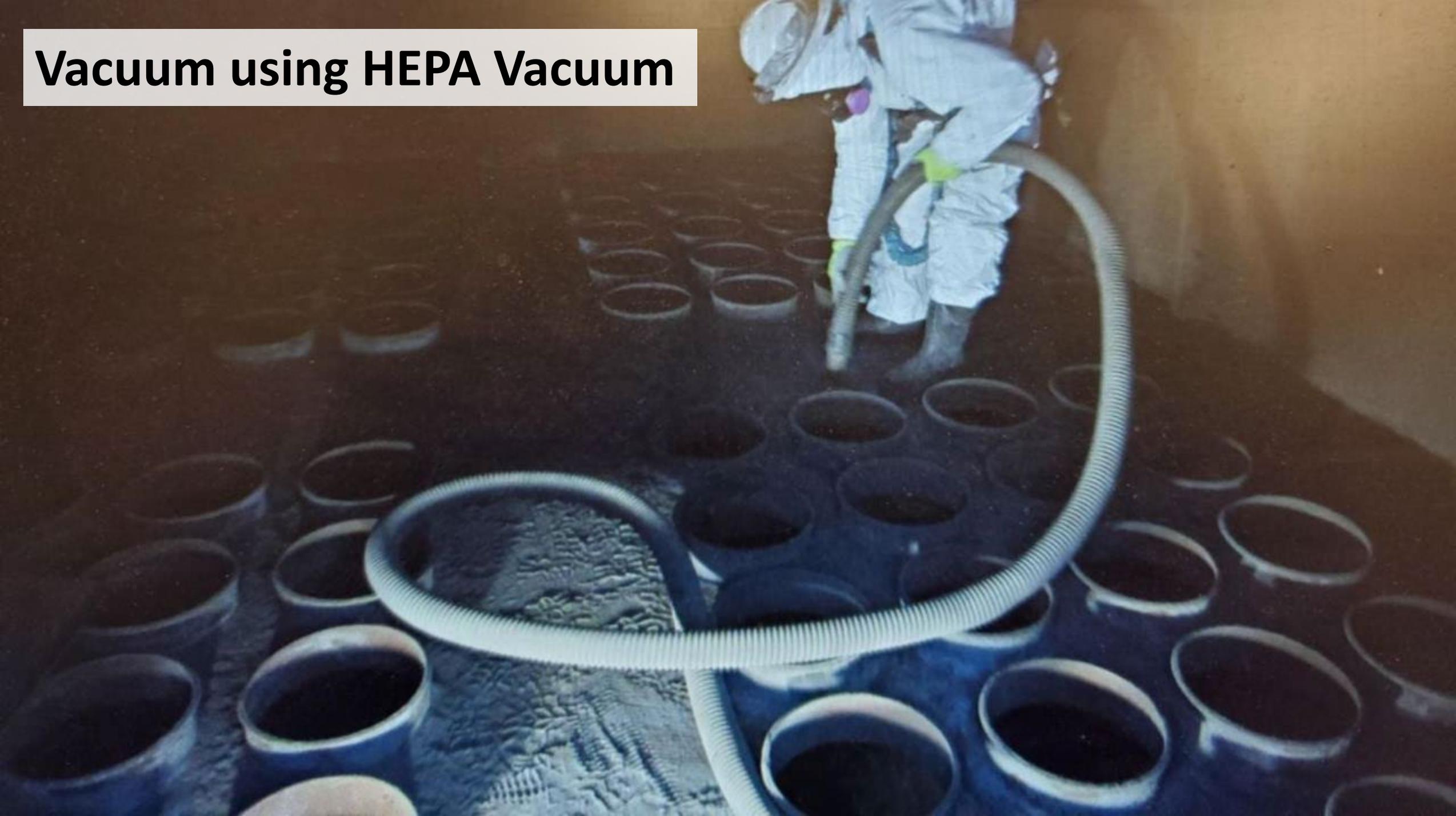
Baghouse Decontamination – Establish Containment



Remove Bag Filters



Vacuum using HEPA Vacuum



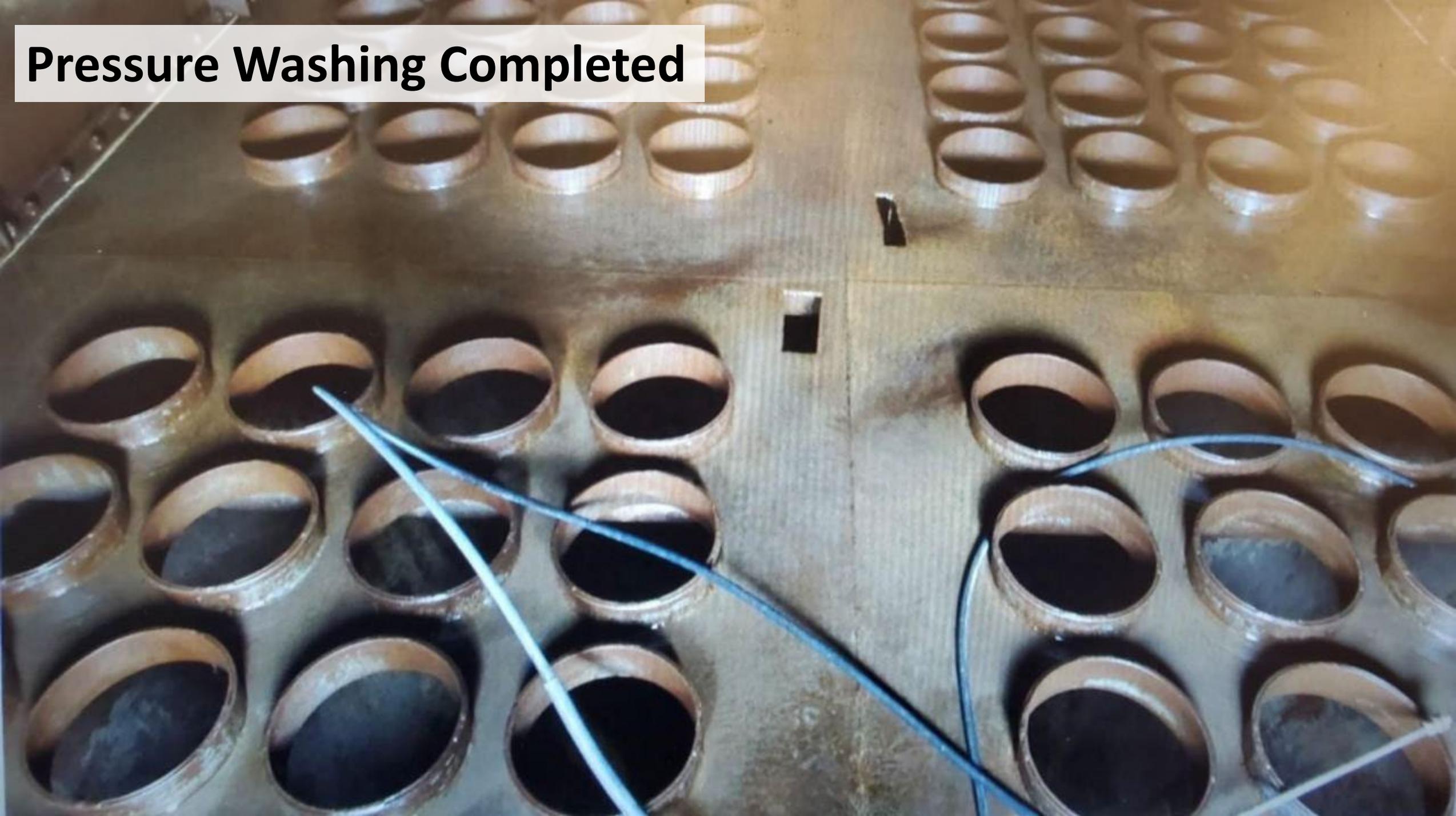
Contents collected in Super Sacks



Pressure wash



Pressure Washing Completed



**Pressure
wash rinse
water
collected
and treated
on-Site**



**Ventilation Pipe
Decon
(from roof)**

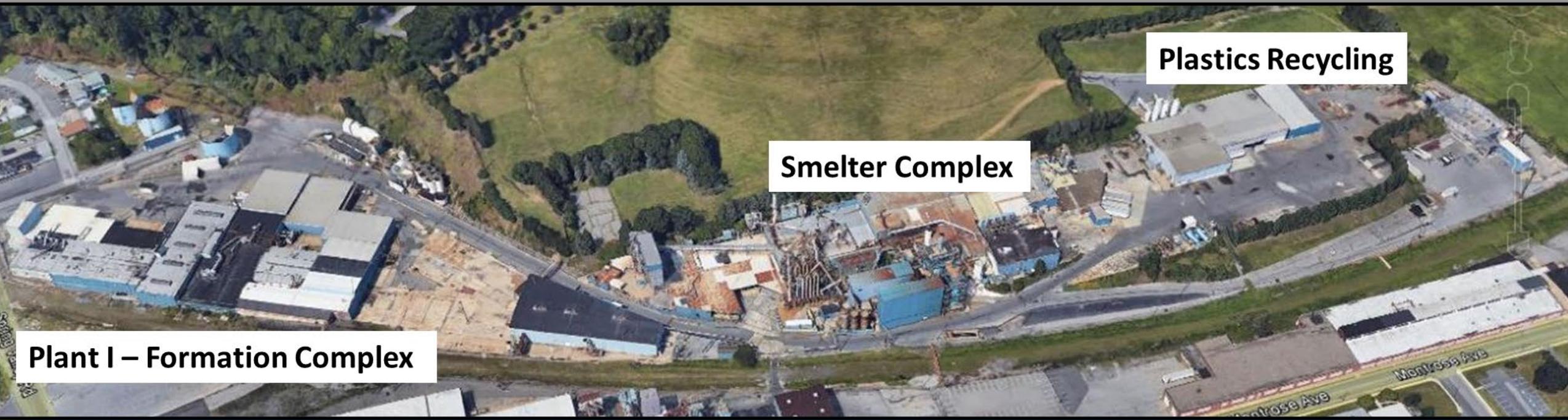


Ventilation Pipe Decontamination



Current Cleanup Actions (continued)

- **In March 2022**, EPA expanded the scope of the removal action to address other process areas of the Site:
 - Smelter Complex
 - Plant I – Formation Complex
 - Plastics Recycling



Current Cleanup Actions (continued)

- Take temporary actions necessary to ensure that the water discharged from the on-Site treatment systems meets applicable standards



Community Protection

- Real-time perimeter dust monitoring and sampling
 - Four stations surrounding the work zone
 - No lead in dust exceedances to date
- After hours and weekend security guards that patrol the Site
- Regular communication and visits from local Fire Marshal



Cleanup Status

Completed to date:

- **All 15 baghouses**
 - 7,249 filters and 102 super sacks of lead dust/debris
 - 63.5 tons of baghouse filters shipped off-Site for disposal
- **Ventilation Piping**
 - 4,904 feet pressure washed
- **Acid Storage Tanks and Piping**
 - 7,970 feet of piping drained and decontaminated
 - 240 gallons of acid recovered/neutralized

Cleanup Status (continued)

Tasks remaining:

- **Smelter Complex**
 - Smelter Ovens
 - Smelting Pots
 - Battery Shredder
- **Plastics Recycling Building**
 - Battery Breaker Areas
- **Operate and improve efficiencies of the treatment plants**
- **Continue shipping waste off-Site for disposal**

Next Steps

- Evaluate the potential for including the Exide facility on the National Priorities List (NPL) – the list of the most contaminated sites in the country eligible for long-term investigation and cleanup using federal funding
 - Includes evaluation of all available data for both on and off-facility areas contaminated by former lead smelting operations and collecting new data where necessary
 - EPA will continue collaborating with PADEP; using available state response authorities to address legacy contamination if the site does not list on the NPL
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Community Involvement



SUMMARY
 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began cleanup work at the Former Exide Technologies Site in Laureldale, Pennsylvania in April 2021.

The site consists of an approximately 40-acre former lead battery recycling and manufacturing facility.

EPA's cleanup efforts include dismantling and decontaminating, when necessary, the smelter components, including the five baghouses and associated duct work. These structures are deteriorating and are contaminated.

Groundwater contamination is localized and has remained static within the facility property boundaries. There are no direct exposures to the groundwater contamination. Stormwater runoff is collected and treated by the on-site treatment systems.

The facility and the surrounding community are connected to a treated public water supply.

ACTIVITY ON SITE
 EPA personnel and contractors, equipment, and vehicles will be present on-site.

EPA activities will close for this period. Work will take place throughout the year.

BACKGROUND
 Lead battery manufacturing property. In 2016, EPA's Superfund removal program cleaned on-site baghouses and ductwork. Former process equipment containers are also being cleaned as a protective measure.

In May 2020, Exide Technologies resumed their work at the site. Due to the bankruptcy, an evaluation of the site was conducted that found areas that need a cleanup.

PAST EPA INVOLVEMENT
 Before the bankruptcy, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an investigation of the site and the impact on the surrounding community. EPA and PADEP visited the site on the Former Exide Technologies property.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
 Through ongoing communication, EPA is updating the community on the progress of the cleanup work.

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CURRENT STATUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) removal program began at the Former Exide Technologies Site in Laureldale, Pennsylvania in April 2021.

The site consists of an approximately 40-acre former lead battery recycling and manufacturing facility.

EPA's Superfund removal program cleaned on-site baghouses and ductwork. Former process equipment containers are also being cleaned as a protective measure.

Removal actions tend to be swift to address immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants in order to eliminate dangers to the public.

To learn more about EPA's removal actions, visit: www.epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-role-emergency-response

EPA will take temporary actions to prevent an uncontrolled release of contaminated wastewater or other pollutants from the site by continuing to operate existing treatment systems.



Public Meeting Notice/Aviso de Reunión

Please join the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a public availability session at the Muhlenberg High School Auditorium to learn about past, current, and future cleanup efforts at the Former Exide Technologies Site located at 3000 Montrose Ave, Laureldale, PA 19605. At the session, the public can meet one-on-one with the EPA Exide site team who will be sharing maps and various site information. Additionally, EPA will hold a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session. Please see below for all the details, and we hope to see you there!

When: October 25, 2022
Where: Muhlenberg High School Auditorium
 400 Sharp Ave, Reading, PA 19605
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 A formal presentation will begin at 7:00PM

Únase a la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA) para una sesión de disponibilidad pública en el Auditorio de la Escuela Secundaria Muhlenberg para conocer los esfuerzos de limpieza pasados, actuales y futuros en el Sitio de Exide Technologies ubicado en 3000 Montrose Ave, Laureldale, PA 19605. En la sesión, el público puede reunirse personalmente con el equipo del sitio Exide de la EPA, quien compartirá mapas y información del sitio. Además, la EPA realizará una presentación formal seguida de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas. Consulte a continuación todos los detalles, ¡y esperamos verlos allí!

Cuando: Octubre 25, 2022
Dónde: Muhlenberg High School Auditorium 400 Sharp Ave, Reading, PA 19605
Horario: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Una presentación formal comenzará a las 7:00PM

- Site Investigation
- Proposal to the NPL



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response.epa.gov/exidetechnologieslaureldale