



REMOVAL

Lewis Chemical Removal Site Hyde Park, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

Removal work to clean up the Lewis Chemical site is still on-going by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

To date, around 2,500 tons of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)-contaminated soil has been excavated and transported off-site to EPA approved landfill facilities.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Approximately 1,500 tons of contaminated soil needs to be dug up and shipped to EPA approved landfills. Water will continue to be used to control dust from going into the air. Monitoring for contamination in the air will also continue. Depending on the weather, excavation work may take until May or June. Once completed, around 60 additional trucks will be need be loaded so the contamination can be transported to a landfill. Community members will see trucks coming in and out of the site at different times each day. Once the digging and removal of contaminated soil is complete, the site will be backfilled with clean soil.

A traffic plan to truck off contaminated soil and to bring in clean soil was created and discussed with the Boston Police and Fire Department. A police officer will direct traffic at the intersection of Fairmount Court and Fairmount Avenue during trucking. An EPA contractor will also be present by the train station to direct traffic whenever a truck is moving past.

BACKGROUND

The 0.9-acre Lewis Chemical Site is in a neighborhood with businesses and residential homes in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. The site has three parcels, two of which are now

KEY CONTACTS:

TOM HATZOPOULOS

U.S. EPA On-Scene
Coordinator

617-918-1284

hatzopoulos.athanasios@epa.gov

ZANETTA PURNELL

U.S. EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator

617-918-1306

purnell.zanetta@epa.gov

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owned by the City of Boston and the third is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The entire site is next to the Neponset River. It is near the Fairmount Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority train station and railroad tracks.

Many different businesses operated at the City-owned properties in the late 1800s until the early 1960s. The Lewis Chemical Corp., operated at 12-24 Fairmount Court from 1963 to 1983. It collected, transported, stored, and processed hazardous wastes. In 1983, after an explosion and fire at the facility, Lewis Chemical's license to operate was revoked.

From 1983 to 2021, the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts completed environmental assessments of their properties and found soil contaminated with, most notably PCBs, volatile organic compounds, and metals.

In 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Boston asked EPA to address hazardous substances existing at the site. In October 2022, EPA started an environmental investigation. In January 2023, EPA approved a \$3.9 million short-term cleanup plan, or removal action. EPA started the cleanup in April 2023. The goal is to remove the source of contamination by digging up and disposing of soil contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances and replacing it with clean fill.