



EMERGENCY REMOVAL

Kempton Road Removal Site Millville & Uxbridge, 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.



BACKGROUND:

In July 1991, the Uxbridge Board of Health was called to investigate potential contamination of groundwater near Kempton Road. A well being drilled and pumped for a nearby housing development smelled like chemicals. Residents in this area of Uxbridge and Millville were notified immediately not to use the water from their private wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) was also notified and quickly discovered chlorinated volatile organic compound (CVOC) contamination in the wells designated for the new homes of this development. Investigations found the source of contamination to be from illegal dumping along Kempton Road from the 1970s. For several weeks, residents in the area depended on emergency supplies of water as filtration devices were placed on existing wells. The Town eventually received funds to supply municipal water to this area.

In the summer of 1992, MassDEP installed an impervious plastic liner over the Spill Area identified to have the highest CVOC levels in both the soil and groundwater, then covered it with a two-foot soil cover, capping the waste in place and preventing future direct contact exposures.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent preliminary assessment and site investigation at the Kempton Road Site (Site) was conducted in 2020 at the request of MassDEP. Soil gas, subsurface soil, groundwater, surface water, and dense nonaqueous phase liquids data collected during this investigation indicate that CVOC contamination is still present in the soil, groundwater aquifers, and surface water at the Site and surrounding area.

KEY CONTACTS:

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MassDEP updated its request for assistance in May 2023 reporting that the Spill Area soil cap had been compromised by age and overgrowth, allowing the contamination to spread further underground. MassDEP requested that EPA removes the remaining contaminated soil from the capped Spill Area.

UPCOMING EPA ACTIVITY:

EPA conducted a Site walk on June 4, 2024 with state and local officials to assess the Site's current condition. During the week of June 10th, 2024, EPA began staging equipment and started clearing the vegetation and debris to safely access the Spill Area soil contamination. Once access has been established, EPA will begin the removal process of and proper disposal of the contaminated soil. Upon completion of the excavation of contaminated soils, EPA will backfill the excavation area with clean fill material and will restore any response related damages that may occur.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO SEE & HEAR:

Once work begins at the Site, EPA will be operating Monday through Thursday 7AM to 5PM. Site personnel working in the excavation area may be seen wearing Tyvek suits (protective clothing); while others, not working in the excavation, will be seen wearing hardhats and reflective vest. Excavation equipment, trucks & other heavy equipment may be seen entering and leaving the site during working hours. EPA will have air and dust monitors stationed around the excavation and the Site perimeter to ensure protection of the workers and surrounding community.