



REMOVAL

Riverside Square PCB Removal Site

Hyde Park, Boston, 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.



STATUS

The Riverside Square PCB site is located along the northern bank of the Lower Neponset River within the Riverside Square neighborhood of Hyde Park. From the 1930s through the 1970s, several industries using polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, operated in the Neponset River Basin. In 1962 and 1964, the Metropolitan District Commission (now part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation) dredged the river to help control flooding. Dredging is the process of cleaning out the bed of the river by scooping out sediment (mud) and debris with a machine called a dredge. The dredged materials, or “spoils,” were placed in several locations along the banks of the river, essentially creating new land. The Riverside Square PCB site is one of those riverbank locations. In October 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection asked EPA to further investigate the dredged spoils at the Riverside Square PCB site.

Contractors and equipment will arrive beginning in early October 2024. The cleanup is currently expected to last through Summer 2026, and workers will be operating on weekdays from 7 am to 5 pm. During this time, EPA will remove the PCB and lead-contaminated soil, replace it with clean soil, and then re-seed impacted areas. To access the contaminated soil, EPA needs to remove the existing fence, which runs lateral to the river, and surrounding trees and vegetation. A temporary security fence will be put up for safety. The undeveloped property where Pierce Street, Arlington Street, and Riverside Square meet will be used as a staging area for the cleanup. Trucks will come in and out of the work zone at this location, and equipment, contaminated soil, and clean backfill will be staged there.

Please reach out to Liz McCarthy or Tom Hatzopoulos if you have any questions.

KEY CONTACTS:

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