



REMOVAL

Riverside Square PCB 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.



BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Square PCB site is located along the northern bank of the Neponset River within the Riverside Square area in Hyde Park, MA. From the 1930s through the 1970s, several industries using polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) operated in the Neponset River Basin, one of the most industrialized basins in the United States. In 1962 and 1964, to control flooding, the river was dredged by the Metropolitan District Commission, now a part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), to deepen the channel. 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.

PREVIOUS ACTIVITY:

PCBs are a group of man-made chemicals that are no longer manufactured, but which stay in the environment for a long time and may present health risks. Because it was thought that the dredged materials may have PCB contamination, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conducted soil sampling along the riverbank and inland in the Riverside Square area in 2010. The results confirmed the presence of PCBs in soil. MassDEP asked EPA to further investigate PCBs at the site. In July 2011, EPA conducted additional soil sampling to verify MassDEP's previous results and to begin to determine the scope and scale of contamination. Although EPA's investigation confirmed the presence of PCBs in soil at some locations, the sampling data did not result in the removal of PCB soils at the time.

CURRENT EPA ACTIVITY/WHAT TO EXPECT:

In October 2022, MassDEP formally requested that EPA perform further investigation of the dredged soil at the Riverside Square PCB site. Before sampling begins, a land

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[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/
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survey will be conducted to determine the boundaries between properties. The surveyors will use measuring equipment on tripods and measuring tapes. Once the land surveys are complete, EPA and its contractors (in teams of four to six people) will collect soil and sediment samples in the riverbank area and/or residential properties to determine the extent of contamination, if any. Soil and sediment samples will be collected using hand tools (augers) or possibly mechanical equipment to drill shallow holes to extract samples for laboratory analysis. The holes will be re-filled with sand and topsoil. Workers will be wearing white protective suits because of their potential contact with contaminated materials.

The investigation will take approximately one month, and activities will occur on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Once sampling results are available, EPA will issue an updated factsheet sharing the results and what, if any, cleanup activities may be needed. During the entirety of this process, EPA will make itself available to area residents and continue to work with the City of Boston, DCR, and MassDEP.