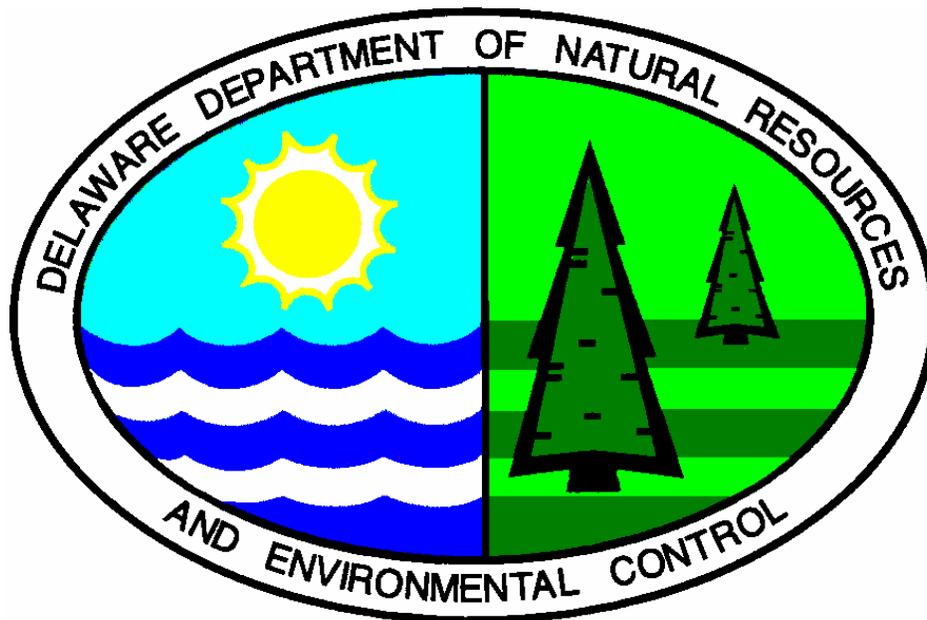


# NEW PROPOSED PLAN OF REMEDIAL ACTION

207 A Street  
Wilmington, DE

DNREC Project No. DE-1247



July 2003

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Division of Air and Waste Management  
Site Investigation & Restoration Branch  
391 Lukens Drive  
New Castle, Delaware 19720

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 207 A Street site (site) is located on the southern bank of the Christina River in Wilmington, Delaware, a portion of which is utilized as parking and outdoor dining by the Christina River Club. It is bounded on the south by A Street, and on the east by the Walnut Street Bridge. In order to determine the potential for environmental liability prior to the purchase of the site, the Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC) entered into the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Site Investigation and Restoration Branch's (DNREC's) Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) under the provisions of the Delaware Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act, 7 Del. C. Chapter 91 (HSCA). Through a VCP Agreement, RDC agreed to investigate the potential risks posed to the public health, welfare, and the environment at the site. RDC contracted EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. (EA) to perform a remedial investigation (RI) of the site.

The purpose of the RI was to: 1) collect additional information from the site to refine site knowledge from previous investigations; 2) delineate and determine the extent of petroleum contamination, and its possible migration and environmental impacts; and 3) determine the level of risk posed by the contaminants, and based upon this analysis, evaluate remedial alternatives.

The original proposed plan of remedial action (original proposed plan) for the 207 A Street site was issued for public comment on July 22, 2002. The public comment period ended on August 12, 2002. No comments were received by DNREC. Because the owner of the site changed the intended future use of the property after the proposed plan was issued, DNREC determined that it was necessary to issue an amended proposed plan of remedial action (amended proposed plan) to account for this change in the use of the site. The amended proposed plan was issued for public comment on November 25, 2002. The public comment period ended on December 16, 2002, no comments were received by DNREC. The final plan was issued on January 31, 2003. Since the possible design and construction plans for the site requires raising the overall grade of the site from the present elevation, RDC has requested that DNREC revise the final plan to take into account the new construction plans. As a result, DNREC has determined that it is necessary to issue this new proposed plan of remedial action (new proposed plan).

In August 2002, RDC approached DNREC with a request to change the proposed development of the property from commercial/industrial to urban residential (i.e., apartment/condominium). At DNREC's request, RDC agreed to perform an updated risk assessment of the property to take into account the proposed change in land use. The updated risk assessment concluded that elevated risks to human health are posed by soil contamination at the site. DNREC has determined that the initial proposed remedy, which consisted of "hot spot" excavation and removal and containment of residual petroleum-impacted soils underneath structures and a parking lot, would still be protective of human health and the environment provided that no areas of contaminated soil would remain exposed, such as for yards or vegetative buffers.

In January 2003, RDC informed DNREC that a possible component of the final construction plans may consist of raising the overall grade of the site from the present elevation (4 to 5 feet above sea level) to the level of the top of the rebuilt bulkhead, which will be approximately 11 feet above sea level. At a minimum, two (2) feet of clean-fill will be added to the existing grade of site, even if the final construction plans do not require raising the overall grade of the site to

11 feet above sea level. In this case, the construction-related excavation will be in the clean fill above the contaminated soil and the risk to construction workers will be eliminated since there will be no exposure. Another possible component of the final construction plan may include performing construction activities in areas that have extended below the clean fill. When excavation is necessary below the clean fill in areas surrounding MW-6 and other areas containing elevated concentrations of PAHs, the soils will be over-excavated, removed and properly disposed of. The over-excavated areas will be subsequently filled with clean fill. Therefore, any necessary construction activities would then occur within the clean fill.

This document is DNREC's new proposed plan for the site. It is based on the results of the previous investigations performed at the site. This new proposed plan is issued under the provisions of the HSCA and the Regulations Governing Hazardous Substance Cleanup (Regulations). It presents the Department's assessment of the potential health and environmental risks posed by the site.

As described in Section 12 of the Regulations, DNREC will provide notice to the public and an opportunity for the public to comment on the second amended proposed plan. After the comment period concludes, DNREC will review and consider all of the comments received and issue an amended final plan of remedial action (amended final plan). The amended final plan will designate the selected remedy for the site. The RI, the original proposed plan, the amended proposed plan, the new proposed plan, the comments received from the public, DNREC's responses to those comments, the final plan and the amended final plan will constitute the remedial decision record for the site.

Section II presents a summary of the site description, history and previous investigations of the site. Section III provides a description of the RI results. Section IV presents a discussion of the remedial action objectives. Section V presents the new proposed plan of remedial action. Section VI discusses public participation requirements.

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

### ***2.1 Site Setting***

The site is located along the southern bank of the Christina River in Wilmington, Delaware (Figures 1 & 2). The site is bordered on the west by the structures and parking lot related to the Christina River Club, on the south by A Street, and to the east by the Walnut Street Bridge. The site is part of a larger property, which consists of three parcels: 201 A Street, 205 A Street, and 207 A Street, which in total encompasses 3.58 acres. However, 201 and 205 A Street, which comprise 1.82 acres, were assessed as part of a separate investigation and are not included as part of the site. The remaining parcel (New Castle County tax parcel number 26-050.00.009) constitutes the 207 A Street site, which is approximately 1.76 acres in size. The outdoor dining area for the Christina River Club Restaurant is located on the site. The remainder of the site is utilized as a paved parking lot. The surrounding land use is generally light industrial and commercial.

### ***2.2 Site and Project History***

EA, through a review of historical aerial photographs, United States Geologic Survey topographic maps, historical Sanborn fire insurance maps and city directories, investigated the historical use of the site. The 1887 and 1893 Sanborn maps indicated that the site was used as a planing mill, for coal storage and as a lumberyard owned by the Cold Spring Ice and Coal Company. By the 1920s, the site was occupied by the American Oil Company, and contained an aboveground storage tank farm, several small buildings and railroad sidings. The American Oil Company continued to operate at the property until the 1980s.

### **3.0 INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

EA conducted a Phase II investigation at the site in October 1999, which consisted of direct push soil and groundwater sampling. Subsurface soil samples were collected from five direct push soil borings at the site. Groundwater samples were collected from temporary monitoring wells constructed in two of the soil boring locations.

Subsequent to the Phase II investigation, a RI was conducted in June and July 2001 by EA, in which soil samples were collected from a total of seven (7) soil borings, with groundwater samples collected from permanent monitoring wells constructed in six (6) of the soil boring locations.

The samples were analyzed for contaminants listed on the Target Analyte List and the Target Compound List (TAL/TCL). The analytical results were first compared to the DNREC Uniform Risk Based Remediation Standards (URS) in a non-critical water resource area, using the unrestricted use risk scenario as a screen in order to determine potential contaminants of concern (COCs). Those chemicals whose concentrations exceeded the unrestricted use URS were selected as COCs and included in a human health risk assessment and ecological risk assessment screening.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) detected above the unrestricted use (i.e., residential) URS values included benzene (unrestricted use URS of 800 micrograms/kilogram ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )) in four Phase II soil boring locations (up to 13,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) and four RI soil boring locations (up to 7,300  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), and chloroform (up to 390  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  with an unrestricted use URS of 340  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) in two RI soil boring locations. Subsurface soil samples from five RI soil boring locations contained one or more polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at concentrations exceeding their respective unrestricted use URS values, including benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene. The highest concentrations of each of the above compounds were detected in samples collected from soil boring MW-4, located in the approximate center of the property, at a depth of 4-6' below ground surface (bgs). The observed concentrations for benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, and indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene also exceeded their respective restricted-use (i.e., commercial or industrial) URS. However, benzo(k)fluoranthene was removed from further consideration as it met the remediation attainment criteria using the 75/10X rule as outlined in the DNREC Remediation Standards Guidance. Complete analytical results from the RI are listed in table format in Appendix A.

Several metals were also identified in subsurface soils at concentrations that exceeded their unrestricted use URS, including aluminum, arsenic, iron, manganese and vanadium. However,

all of the inorganic contaminant concentrations except arsenic (up to 41.4 mg/kg) were below the respective restricted use URS values. The background value for arsenic in Delaware is 11 mg/kg. Also, vanadium was removed from further consideration as it met the remediation attainment criteria using the 75/10X rule as outlined in the DNREC Remediation Standards Guidance

Groundwater sampling results from each of the sampling locations from the Phase II investigation and the RI detected benzene at concentrations exceeding its U.S. EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water of 5 µg/L in all but one RI location. Concentrations of benzene ranged from 2 µg/L up to 580 µg/L. Naphthalene was detected above its groundwater URS of 20 µg/L in MW-2 (46 µg/L).

Arsenic was detected above its MCL of 50 µg/L in MW-4 (56.1 µg/L), while iron and manganese exceeded their Secondary MCL (SMCL) in every sample. It should be noted however, that SMCLs represent non-regulatory values that reflect aesthetic qualities such as color and taste, and are not health-based. Further, public water is available in this area, and a Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) restricting use of groundwater in Wilmington is presently in place, both of which prevent human exposure to site groundwater.

Contaminants identified as COCs and retained for inclusion in the human health risk assessment include: aluminum, iron, manganese, benzene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(a)pyrene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, benzo(a)anthracene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, naphthalene and arsenic. The calculations were conducted using the DNREC Site-Specific Calculator for Multiple Analytes (DNREC May 2000 version). The initial risk assessment that was performed assumed a commercial/industrial risk setting, and development of the site into a multi-story office building. It was performed in order to evaluate the cumulative risk associated with the exposure to soil and ingestion of groundwater on the site. The planned future use of the site consists of construction of a multi-story office complex. As such, the completed exposure pathway consisted of incidental soil ingestion, dermal contact, and inhalation of contaminated soils by construction workers. Based upon the assessment, the soil cumulative risk was calculated to be  $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ , which exceeds the HSCA action level of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$ , and a hazard index of 0.4, which is below the HSCA action level of 1.0.

Based upon the request to change the proposed development at the site from commercial/industrial to urban residential, a second risk assessment was performed, at DNREC's request, to take into account the proposed change in use. The exposure pathway evaluation determined that the only potential completed pathway is to construction workers. At the present time, there are no completed pathways as the majority of the site is covered by asphalt. After development of the site, exposure pathways will be also be closed as the site will be covered by buildings, hardscape, and paving. In this case, the only potential exposure route was to construction workers exposed to direct contact with subsurface soil during utility maintenance and similar activities.

The construction workers exposure to the soils will be eliminated by either (1) providing sufficient clean fill (a minimum of 2 feet) above the present site surface such that construction activities or excavation will take place within clean fill, or (2) removing the soils of the hot spot areas to reduce the soil cancer risk to an acceptable level, or (3) if construction activities must occur beneath the clean fill in the areas of the hot spots, the soils in these areas will be over-

excavated, properly disposed of and subsequently filled with clean fill so that construction activities will occur within the clean fill. Therefore, it was concluded that the soil did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health, given a commercial/industrial risk setting.

The cumulative risk calculation (or hazard quotient, HQ) for noncancer risk to the construction worker was 1.3. The ingestion route of exposure accounted for 97% of the total noncancer risk. Consequently the potential for noncancer effects to the construction worker are above the risk cutoff of 1.0.

Noncancer risks are target organ dependent. The three major noncancer risk drivers were manganese (HQ = 0.68), arsenic (HQ = 0.4), and iron (HQ = 0.2). Target organs for these chemicals are the central nervous system and skin/blood for manganese and arsenic, respectively (U.S. EPA 2002b). No target organ has been identified for iron. Because no single target organ has a HI greater than 1.0, noncancer risks to construction workers is acceptable.

The results of the risk calculations show that cancer risks to the construction worker ranged from  $3 \times 10^{-8}$  for benzene to  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  for arsenic. The total cancer risk to the construction worker was  $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ . Incidental ingestion of soil accounted for 91% of cancer risks. The interpretation of the significance of the cancer risk estimates is based on the appropriate public policy. Delaware Regulations Governing Hazardous Substance Cleanup (DNREC-SIRB 1996) defers to a cleanup and background risk of  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ . Based on State regulations the total cancer risk level of  $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$  is above acceptable State risk levels. These risks are being driven by Sample MW-4 (3-5 ft), with a concentration of 41 mg/kg. The next highest arsenic concentration was 17 mg/kg found at MW-6 (4-6 ft). In addition to arsenic, cancer risks are being contributed to by PAH, primarily benzo(a)pyrene, with smaller contributions from dibenz(a,h)anthracene and benzo(b)fluoranthene (Table 5-6). All three of these PAH were found at appreciably higher concentrations in Sample MW-6 (4-6 ft). This is indicative of a potential localized hot spot that may require additional investigation.

Due to the site's location along the Christina River, it was necessary to assess what potential impacts, if any, the site could pose to the environmental health of the river. The site will remain paved, will be redeveloped, and the existing bulkhead will be maintained, thus precluding erosion of site soils into the river. Groundwater loading values were also calculated to evaluate the possible effects of groundwater discharge into the Christina River. Loading values for all organic and metallic analytes detected in groundwater during both the Phase II and RI investigations were calculated based upon the measured groundwater flow rate at the site and the flow rate of the Christina River. Based upon these calculations, it was determined that there were no exceedences of Delaware's Surface Water Quality Standards (DSWQS) by the discharge of site groundwater into the Christina.

#### **4.0 REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES**

According to Section 8.4 (1) of the Regulations, site-specific remedial action objectives (RAOs) must be established for all plans of remedial action. The Regulations provide that DNREC set objectives for land use, resource use and cleanup levels that are protective of human health and the environment.

Qualitative objectives describe in general terms what the final results of the remedial action, if necessary, should be. The following qualitative objectives are determined to be appropriate for the site:

- Prevent residential exposure to impacted media;
- Prevent future construction worker exposure to elevated concentrations of site contaminants;
- Prevent environmental impacts, specifically to the Christina River, due to impacted media at the site; and
- Continue the use of public water for all purposes to the property and the surrounding community.

These objectives are consistent with the current use of the site as a commercial use in an urban setting, New Castle County zoning policies, state regulations governing water supply and worker health and safety.

Based on the qualitative objectives, the quantitative objectives are:

1. Prevent human exposure to soils and groundwater contaminated by VOCs, PAHs, and metals at concentrations above their respective URS values; and
2. Prevent erosion and discharge of soils contaminated by VOCs, PAHs, and metals into the Christina River.

## **5.0 PROPOSED PLAN OF REMEDIAL ACTION**

1. Eliminate the unacceptable risk posed by soils containing the following PAH compounds above the  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  risk concentrations noted in parentheses: benzo(b)fluoranthene (9,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), benzo(a)pyrene (900  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), dibenzo(a,h)anthracene (900  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ), benzo(a)anthracene (9,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ). This unacceptable risk will be eliminated by either:
  - (a) Providing a minimum of two (2) feet of clean fill above the present site surface such that all construction activities/excavation will take place within clean fill, or
  - (b) Delineating, excavating and properly disposing off-site, prior to construction activities, and in accordance with a DNREC-approved remedial action workplan, the soils around MW-6 and other areas that contain high concentrations of PAHs, or
  - (c) When excavation is necessary below the clean fill in the area around MW-6 and other areas that contain high concentrations of PAHs during construction activities, over-excavate, remove and properly dispose of these soils, and subsequently fill the over-excavated area with clean fill, thereby causing all necessary construction activities to occur within the clean fill.
2. Cap any impacted soils containing the aforementioned constituents at concentrations between the noted  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  levels (above) and  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  levels. The proposed cap would be

constructed in accordance with a DNREC-approved remedial action workplan, and in conjunction with development of the property and will include containment of the soils underneath proposed structures and asphalt parking lots and any clean fill needed to bring the site up to grade. A geotextile fabric will be installed immediately above the residual contaminated soil as a marker boundary to identify the presence of the contaminated layer.

3. Maintain the existing bulkhead along the Christina River, and contain the existing soils at the site so as to prevent their erosion into the Christina River.
4. Placement of a deed restriction on the property, no longer than ninety days following DNREC's adoption of the final plan: a) prohibiting any digging, drilling, excavating, grading, constructing, earth moving, or any other land disturbing activities on the property (including the removal or modification of the bulkhead) below the geotextile fabric marker boundary without the prior written approval of the DNREC; b) requiring written approval from DNREC prior to any repair, renovation or demolition of the existing structures on the property, or any paved surfaces; and c) identifying that the site is included in the GMZ for the City of Wilmington which prohibits the installation of any water well on, or use of groundwater at, the site without the prior written approval of DNREC.
5. Prepare and implement an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan within two years to be approved by DNREC to maintain the integrity of the site structures and asphalt cap.

## **6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Department actively solicits public comments or suggestions on the proposed plan of remedial action and welcomes opportunities to answer questions. Please direct written comments to:

DNREC Site Investigation and Restoration Branch  
391 Lukens Drive  
New Castle, Delaware 19720  
Attention: Kristen Thornton

The comment period begins, Monday, July 14, 2003 and ends at the close of business (4:30 p.m.) Monday, August 4, 2003. If DNREC receives a request with merit, a public meeting will be held on the proposed plan. The meeting time and place will be publicly announced in the same venues as this proposed plan.

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John Blevins  
Director, Division of Air and Waste Management

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Date of Review of Proposed Plan

**Figures 1 & 2 from Remedial Investigation Report**

**Prepared by EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc., September 2001.**

**Figure 1: Site Location/Topographic Map**

**Figure 2: Sampling Locations**

## **APPENDIX A**