

# Quanta Resources Superfund Site Update



December 2018

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) work to address contamination at the Quanta Resources Superfund site in Edgewater, NJ will be continuing later this winter and will include new features in response to feedback from the community. The work to isolate harmful contaminants present in soil at the site, called soil solidification, had been suspended in May 2018 to accommodate demolition of the 115 River Road building, which should be completed by mid-winter. Soil solidification work is expected to resume in early 2019.

## Background on the Cleanup

The Quanta property was the home of a roofing tar plant for more than 100 years. Roofing tar was produced from coal tar, a dark-colored viscous liquid that contains naphthalene and smells like asphalt or mothballs. Under the direction of EPA, Honeywell is cleaning up the Quanta site. Cleanup work includes mixing cement into contaminated soil (a process called solidification) to permanently lock up coal tar, heavy metals, and waste oils so these contaminants cannot move. Some naphthalene vapors are likely when soil containing coal tar is disturbed. These vapors can also linger after construction workers have left the site.



To date, approximately 50% of the land portion of the project has been completed



Soil Solidification inside tent (image courtesy of Honeywell)

bulkhead, a few other areas, approximately 10 percent of the remaining soil solidification will be performed outside of a tent. Vapor mitigation techniques, such as minimizing the size of the work areas and applying odor suppression foam, will be used in these un-tented areas of the soil solidification.

## Air Sampling

Multiple real-time fixed and mobile air monitors have been positioned on the perimeter of the Quanta site to measure dust and total volatile organic compounds in the air. Also, air samples have been collected for laboratory analysis on the fence line of the site. Additional sampling units were added in March 2018 near residential properties and retail shopping areas north and south of the Quanta site. The data generated from the lab analysis of these samples provides a better understanding of the entire picture of air quality in the surrounding community. The map below shows the locations of the air monitors in May when the soil solidification was paused for the demolition of 115 River Road. This network will be restored when soil solidification resumes.

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## Changes to Soil Solidification Techniques

To maximize protectiveness to the surrounding community, the majority (90%) of the remaining cleanup activities at the site (soil solidification, stockpile management, and earth moving) will be conducted under tents to reduce emissions into the air as much as possible. These large, specialized structures will be fitted with air handling equipment that allow for work to be safely conducted within them. In addition, the tents' filtration units will remove about 95 percent of the site related airborne contaminants before venting to outside of the tent.

Because of physical interferences along River Road, the



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)



*Air Monitoring/Sampling Locations*

Because EPA’s risk-based screening level for naphthalene is an average over the life of the project, EPA is calculating a running average at each residential building and commercial area. EPA set a risk-based screening level for naphthalene of 3.13 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter) for a full 24 hour a day residential exposure. The results for both the monitors and samplers are posted on [www.quantaremediation.com](http://www.quantaremediation.com).

**Actions to Address Vapors**

Conservative action and screening levels allow EPA and Honeywell to manage the site in a way that maximizes protection of human health and the environment. When work resumes at the site, stockpiles and soil solidification will be managed under tent

structures to control vapors. In addition, vapor mitigation techniques such as reducing the amount of work on exposed areas, covering disturbed soil with Posi-shell clay binders, non-toxic Rusmar foam, and plastic sheeting will continue.

**River Cleanup**

EPA has been studying site-related impacts to river sediments and the overlying surface water located to the east of the Quanta site. Site related contaminants from historical operations at the site have migrated into the sediments near the shoreline. A remedial investigation of the contaminated sediments and surface water was completed in 2014. Interpretation and analysis of the data revealed data gaps that required additional field work. Phase 2 of the investigation included additional sampling of sediments, a probe study and a sheen study to better delineate the extent of the contamination in the river. Currently, bench-scale treatability tests are being conducted to evaluate viable remedial technologies for the river sediments.

**Advancing Our Mission**

EPA continues to protect public health and the environment by cleaning up the Quanta site. As we do this, we remain vigilant to ensure our mitigation efforts are done in a way that is mindful of impacts of the cleanup on our neighbors who live and work in the immediate vicinity. We welcome public feedback on our efforts and any concerns from the surrounding community.

**Community Hotline**

A hotline has been established a hotline that people can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During hours when work is being conducted at the site, complaints and concerns will be relayed to a supervisor at the site and to EPA. **The hotline number is 201-807-0991.**

**For More Information, Contact:**

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**Call Quanta hotline at: 201-807-0991**

**Visit EPA’s website:**  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/quanta-resources](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/quanta-resources)

**For project updates, schedule, and air monitoring data from Honeywell, visit:**  
[www.quantaremediation.com](http://www.quantaremediation.com)