

Quanta Resources Superfund Site Update



Health and Safety at the Site

May 2018

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is aware of, and is actively addressing, public concerns at the Quanta Superfund cleanup in Edgewater, NJ. EPA has continued to aggressively manage work at the site and explore ways to lower emissions of naphthalene. **As of May 18, soil solidification work at the site has been suspended for the summer.** While it has not been possible to eliminate emissions, work management practices at the site have kept emissions at residential and commercial buildings near the site to a level that do not exceed conservative project-based risk screening levels.



To date, approximately 46% of the project has been completed.

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 which contains naphthalene, which smells of asphalt or mothballs. Cleanup work at the Quanta site includes mixing cement into contaminated soil (a process called solidification) to permanently lock up heavy metals, coal tar, 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.



Air Monitoring/Sampling Locations

Air Monitoring:

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.

Air Sampling:

Air samples have been collected for laboratory analysis on the fence line of the site. Additional sampling units, that collect 10-hour and 24-hour samples, were added in March 2018 near residential properties and retail shopping areas north and south of the Quanta site. EPA recently adjusted its monitoring network, shifting two of these units to better capture potential emissions from the site (see map). The data generated from

the lab analysis of these samples has given us better understanding of the entire picture of air quality in the surrounding community.

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 $4.62 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (micrograms per cubic meter) for a 10-hour workday and has added a screening level of $3.13 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for the longer exposure time of 24 hours. The results for both the monitors and samplers are posted on www.quantaremediation.com

Actions to Address Vapors

Action and screening levels have been conservatively established to allow EPA and Honeywell to manage the site in a way that maximizes protectiveness of human health and the environment. In recent weeks, as a result of the concerns expressed by people living and working near the site, the following actions were taken:

- **Increased the amount of Portland cement being added to the Posi-shell mix:** Honeywell has been applying a coating (Posi-shell) on disturbed areas. The Posi-shell is a blend of clay binders that forms a thin layer similar to stucco over the soils. Increasing the amount of cement in the Posi-shell mix will help the Posi-shell set up faster, with the intent of increasing the effectiveness of the spray. Where Posi-shell cannot be applied, polyethylene sheeting is used to cover exposed surfaces
- **Added 2,000 more linear feet of misters:** Mist generators are designed to help neutralize volatile organic compounds coming from the site.
- **Covering all disturbed areas with plastic poly sheeting before leaving the site for the day.**
- **Reduced the area of disturbed soil and improved debris management:** Honeywell has reduced the size of areas that are being excavated and is also limiting the movement of stockpiled materials. These measures will reduce the opportunity for vapor emissions from contaminated soil and debris.
- **Expanded monitoring stations** to improve awareness of potential volatile organic compound migration to residential and retail shopping areas.
- **Site workers apply a white non-toxic foam (Rusmar) to suppress odor and dust from areas of disturbed soil and stockpiles.**
- **In areas of completed solidification, the site has been graded to fill in low areas and covered with a fabric barrier and gravel.**
- **Tests were recently run on wind screens and a device known as the Odor Boss.** EPA will consider these and other measures before solidification work resumes.



Soil Solidification Work Suspended

On May 18, 2018, soil solidification work at the Quanta site was suspended so that the land portion of the 115 River Road building could be demolished. The demolition work is expected to take approximately three months. Soil solidification work will resume in the fall. During the pause in solidification work, the EPA and Honeywell will continue to monitor air quality and site conditions and share that information with residents and local officials. During the

suspension of soil solidification, EPA will continue to manage the site.

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 identified concerns from the surrounding community.

New Hotline: EPA has 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

For project updates, schedule, and air monitoring data from Honeywell, visit:

www.quantaremediation.com