



**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## Clean up of Soil at Commercial and Industrial Properties

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the cleanup of soil contamination at the Maywood Chemical Superfund site in Maywood, New Jersey. The Stepan Company will dig up chemically contaminated soil from two separate commercial and industrial properties at the site and dispose of it off-site. Once the cleanup is complete, Stepan will restore the properties to pre-existing conditions, including restoring wetlands on the commercial property.

Stepan Company previously removed about 18,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds from twelve residential properties and restored the properties to their original condition.



### Join the EPA for a virtual public information session!

The EPA invites you to a virtual public information session to discuss the upcoming cleanup on  
Monday, September 16, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Register for the event link via [Zoom](#)

## Additional Work

In addition to addressing chemical contamination in the soil, Stepan is also investigating contaminated groundwater on site.

The EPA is overseeing several rounds of groundwater sampling from about 20 monitoring wells to identify the nature and extent of this groundwater contamination. In 2023, Stepan installed eight additional monitoring wells and finished taking groundwater samples from 28 monitoring wells. Once the EPA finishes reviewing the data from the most recent samples, the agency will oversee a study to identify cleanup alternatives. The EPA will then propose a cleanup plan for public review and input sometime in the next few years.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE, is cleaning up radiologically contaminated soil at the site, including where radioactive and chemical contamination are mixed. The USACE is also addressing all contamination on or coming from an 11.7-acre government-owned property, known as the Maywood Interim Storage Site or MISS, at the site. Congress funds the USACE cleanup under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, also known as FUSRAP.

**What is FUSRAP?** Under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, or FUSRAP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE, is cleaning up sites with contamination resulting from the nation's early atomic energy program. FUSRAP began in 1974 to identify, investigate and, if necessary, clean up or control sites throughout the United States contaminated as a result of Manhattan Engineer District, or early Atomic Energy Commission activities. Both the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission were predecessors of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The 2003 cleanup plan for the FUSRAP soil and buildings calls for digging up soil and disposing it off-site. USACE is currently cleaning up this portion of the site and will continue removing the soil that is easily accessible. However, some inaccessible contaminated soil remains throughout the site. As this soil becomes accessible, USACE will remove the FUSRAP contamination. Finally, the USACE is also responsible for cleaning up groundwater impacted by the FUSRAP soil and building contamination. The 2012 FUSRAP groundwater cleanup plan calls for removing and treating contaminated soil affecting the groundwater, long-term monitoring, and institutional controls to prevent well installations in areas of contamination. USACE is continuing to remove the soil and is monitoring the groundwater.

## Site Background

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The Maywood Chemical Superfund site includes more than 90 properties in Maywood, Lodi, and Rochelle Park, New Jersey. Maywood Chemical Works processed radioactive ore on site from 1916 through 1955, which resulted in residual radioactive waste. Other processing activities generated various types of chemical wastes, which were used as fill on site and at nearby properties, resulting in chemical and radioactive contamination over much of the local area. Some of the contamination was transported away from the facility area by brooks and streams. From 1980 to 1983, New Jersey, the EPA, and the U.S. Department of Energy conducted radiological testing that revealed extensive low-level contamination at several locations. The EPA added the site to Superfund's National Priorities List in 1983.

Soil on various parts of the site is contaminated with radioactive waste, primarily thorium, and some soil is contaminated with volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals. Groundwater at the site is contaminated with elevated levels of metals and volatile organic compounds. Groundwater at the site is not a source of drinking water as nearby residents are connected to public water.

## EPA Contact Information

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**Donette Samuel**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
212-637-3570  
[samuel.donette@epa.gov](mailto:samuel.donette@epa.gov)

**Rupika Ketu**

Remedial Project Manager  
212-637-3258  
[Ketu.rupika@epa.gov](mailto:Ketu.rupika@epa.gov)