

Frequently Asked Questions about EPA's Cleanup

Amcast Industrial Corporation
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

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For more information

If you have questions or comments,
please contact:

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Call U.S. EPA toll-free,
800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
weekdays.

On the Web:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/amcast-industrial>

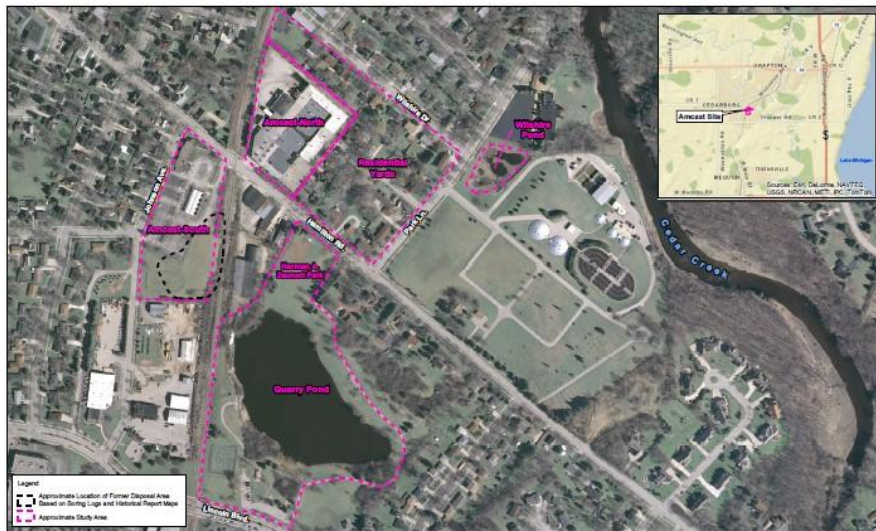


Figure 1 Cleanup locations at the Amcast Industrial Corp. Superfund site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants your opinion about cleaning up the Amcast Industrial Corporation site. EPA will hold interviews with Cedarburg residents from Wed, Nov. 2 through Friday, Nov. 4 at Cedarburg City Hall. EPA experts hope to hear directly from residents to better understand community concerns and information needs about the site.

Site Background

The Amcast site was a local automotive industry supplier, divided between two properties (Amcast North and Amcast South). The present site of the Amcast South office building was formerly the Meta-Mold Aluminum Company, an aluminum die-cast facility that started operating around 1939. The original foundry facility, formerly located east of the office building, was demolished between 1975 and 1980. The demolition debris were placed in the south-southeast portion of the Amcast South property (the "former disposal area"). The former disposal area reportedly also received demolition debris from previous site structures, general office and/or factory refuse (e.g., paper and wood), and scrap metals. Most of the former site structures have been demolished. Over the course of its active years the site was contaminated primarily with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were identified by EPA during its investigation of the site from 2009 to 2015.

Several questions have been brought up regarding the site and EPA's responses to those questions are listed below.

What are PCBs and do they pose a risk to people?

PCBs are carcinogenic, man-made organic chemicals. They were used in many industrial and consumer products because of their fire-resistant and insulating properties. The manufacture of PCBs was banned in 1979 by the Toxic Substances Control Act. PCBs do not readily break down in the environment and can be easily carried in air, water, and soil. Exposure to these chemicals has been proven to cause cancer and negatively impact health.

For more information about PCBs and their related health risks, visit:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/polychlorinated-biphenyls/adverse_health.html

Is there contamination outside of the site?

PCBs migrated from Amcast North and South (shown in fig. 1) via sewers and overland stormwater flow to the nearby residential yards, Quarry Pond, and Wilshire Pond. The sediments in both ponds and fish in Quarry Pond are contaminated.

The groundwater below the site is also contaminated with PCBs and some heavy metals, but the groundwater is not used as a drinking water source.

What will be done to clean up the site?

EPA, with input from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), is developing a Proposed Plan that will outline EPA's recommended cleanup for the site and will solicit comments from the public. EPA expects that the Proposed Plan will be released for public comment in 2023. In general, the recommended cleanup in the Proposed Plan will include excavating contaminated soil and sediment and replacing excavated soil with clean soil.

After EPA incorporates public comments on the proposed plan, EPA will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) to outline the recommended plan and arrange for contractor support to begin the cleanup process.

What will happen to the site after cleanup?

The City of Cedarburg has plans to redevelop the site for residential use once the cleanup is completed and sampling shows contaminants have been removed.

Why is the cleanup taking so long?

In 2004, Amcast declared bankruptcy and its contractor was told to stop working on investigation efforts. In 2009, the site was added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List and EPA continued the work.

In 2015, EPA finished the Remedial Investigation, and in 2018, EPA completed a Feasibility Study. In the meantime, EPA has been evaluating cleanup options for contaminated soil and sediment—this will be presented in the Proposed Plan.

Although the Proposed Plan has been slightly delayed, a draft is currently in the final stages of revision and is expected to be ready for public comment in early 2023.

A new Community Involvement Plan will also be ready for distribution in early 2023 and will include site updates and recent community interviews.

Where can people go to get additional background information on the site?

The EPA webpage for the Amcast Industrial Corporation site is located at: www.epa.gov/superfund/amcast-industrial. EPA's website provides information on the nature and extent of contamination and the cleanup measures taken at the site. The website also houses all documents related to the site.

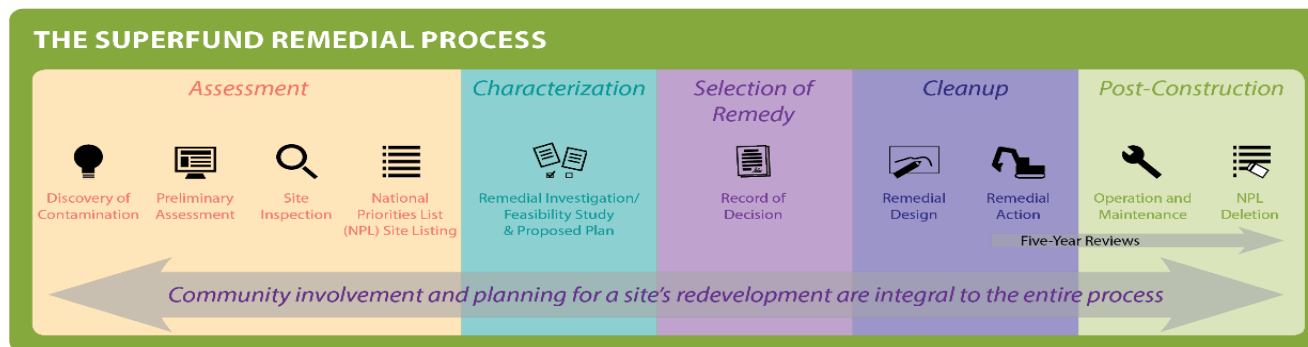


Figure 2 Diagram showing the Superfund remedial process. The Amcast site is at the end of the characterization stage.