

# EPA Continues Oversight of Central Chemical Site Cleanup



Hagerstown, Maryland

August 2022

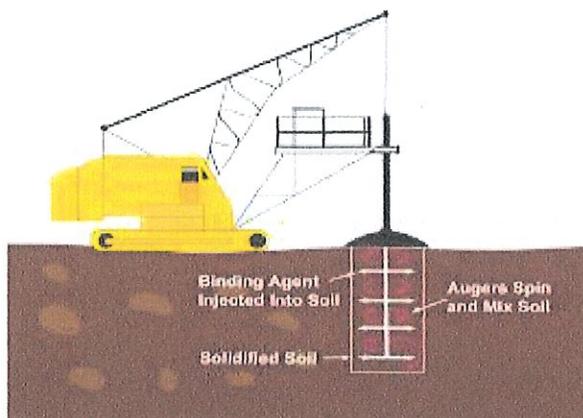
The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) are overseeing the cleanup of the Central Chemical Superfund Site, located along Mitchell Avenue. This fact sheet provides information about upcoming cleanup work, including the in-situ solidification/stabilization (ISS) of waste in the former lagoon.

The groundwater treatment plant construction is completed, and it is capturing contaminated groundwater around the former lagoon area on the Site. The groundwater is being treated at the treatment plant to remove contamination to a protective level prior to discharge to the City's storm sewer system.

As a reminder, Hagerstown residents receive their drinking water from the municipal water supply. This supply pumps water from the Potomac River that is located up-gradient from the Site and is not impacted by contaminants from the Site.

## Next Steps for Cleanup: In-situ Solidification/Stabilization of Waste

In-situ solidification/stabilization of pesticide waste in the former lagoon is scheduled to begin in September 2022. The solidification work will bind the waste into a solid block and trap it in place. The waste will be mixed with binding agents such as portland cement, granular carbon, and blast furnace slag. The mixture of waste and binding agents will harden over time into a solid block. Once the waste is solidified the lagoon area will be covered with a cap to prevent water from contacting the treated waste. This cap will further prevent the contaminants from leaching into the environment. The ISS work will begin approximately September 20, 2022 and will be completed by the end of November 2022.



*Binding agents can be injected into soil and mixed using augers or excavators.*



*The image above depicts an excavator manually mixing waste with binding agents.*



## Site Cleanup Schedule

### Remainder of 2022:

- Operation and maintenance of the groundwater treatment system.
- The waste in the former lagoon will be stabilized and solidified to bind and trap the waste into a solid block that we refer to as “in-situ solidification/stabilization.”
- EPA will receive a Remedial Investigation Report that focuses on the nature and extent of groundwater contamination.

### 2023:

- Soil that is contaminated on the Site property will be excavated and then placed in the lagoon area above the solidified block of waste and then capped.
- The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil, graded, and the site will be vegetated with grass.
- The groundwater treatment plant will continue to operate.
- Long-term maintenance of the capped area will begin.
- EPA will receive a Feasibility Study examining potential cleanup options for treating the groundwater contamination.

## Brief Site Background

Beginning in the 1930s, a chemical plant blended and packaged agricultural pesticides and fertilizers. The pesticide blending production occurred at the Central Chemical property in 1940 and ceased in 1965. All operations at the plant stopped in 1984. EPA added the Site to the National Priorities List in September 1997. More information can be found at [www.epa.gov/superfund/centralchemical](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/centralchemical).

## What Can I Expect to See?

The in-situ solidification/stabilization work will be conducted weekdays during daylight hours. Equipment will include backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, front-end loaders, tampers, small cranes, etc. Dust suppression measures will be employed in the earthwork areas (e.g., spraying water over work areas using a spray nozzle on a water truck). Air monitoring activities will verify that the ISS work area is protective of human health and the environment. EPA will provide regular oversight of ISS activities to confirm that the work is in accordance with the EPA-approved design.

Nearby residents and businesses may notice increased truck traffic as equipment and solidification/stabilization additives are brought to the site along Route 11 and Mitchell Avenue. They may also hear earth-moving equipment as waste is excavated or mixed. **The ISS activities will take place Monday-Friday between 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. beginning approximately September 20, 2022.**

## Questions? Please Contact

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