

SUPERFUND

National Fireworks Site

Forge Industrial Park, Hanover, MA



THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

BACKGROUND

The National Fireworks site (the site) is in Forge Industrial Park in Hanover, MA. From 1907-1970 the site was used for research, development, manufacturing and testing of munitions and pyrotechnics for the U.S. government, as well as commercial manufacturing of civilian fireworks and other non-munitions related manufacturing. Mercury, lead, organic solvents, propellants and explosives were used in the manufacturing operations and have contaminated the site. Mercury has been detected in sediment, soil, groundwater and fish tissue. Lead, other heavy metals and volatile organic compounds have been detected in soil, groundwater and sediment. Munitions and explosives have been found in the soil and in Factory Pond. Beginning in 1997, work has been done by Potentially Responsible Parties to assess and clean up the site in accordance with Massachusetts waste site cleanup regulations.

CLEANUP ACTIONS

Areas of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater contamination have been identified and work has been underway to address unexploded ordnance/munitions. Current site activities include off-site disposal of contaminated soil and sediment, munitions destruction and disposal, soil sampling, and site equipment demobilization.

The recent cleanup actions since 2015 have been funded by the Tronox Incorporated Expendable Trust, which was established as part of a bankruptcy settlement with a Potentially Responsible Party (approximately \$74 million). It is estimated that by the fall of 2024 less than \$10 million will remain in the Tronox Incorporated Expendable Trust. No other funding is available to complete the site response actions under Massachusetts waste site cleanup regulations. MassDEP estimates that significant additional funding, in excess of funding available in the Tronox Incorporated Expendable Trust, will be required to complete the necessary environmental cleanup.

Due to additional funding needed to complete the cleanup of the Site, MassDEP has requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) become involved with the

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site. EPA has additional funding resources to address hazardous waste sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) once a site is added to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

EPA'S POTENTIAL INVOLVEMENT

EPA conducts and supervises investigation and cleanup actions at sites where oil or hazardous chemicals have been or may be released into the environment. This work is conducted primarily under EPA's Superfund program. EPA's Superfund program was established in 1980 to locate, investigate and clean up hazardous waste sites throughout the United States. The Superfund program oversees long-term cleanups at NPL sites, short-term cleanups, and responses to chemical and oil spill emergencies.

The NPL is a list of sites EPA determines require further detailed investigation and potential cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, often referred to as Superfund.

- Sites on the NPL are the subject of detailed investigation, and cleanup where warranted.
- Only sites on the NPL are eligible to receive federal Superfund resources for comprehensive cleanup.
- Federal resources can include monetary support, as well as expertise/staffing.
- Without federal resources, comprehensive cleanup strategies may not be able to be pursued.

More information on NPL listing process can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl>

HOW IS A SITE ADDED TO THE NPL

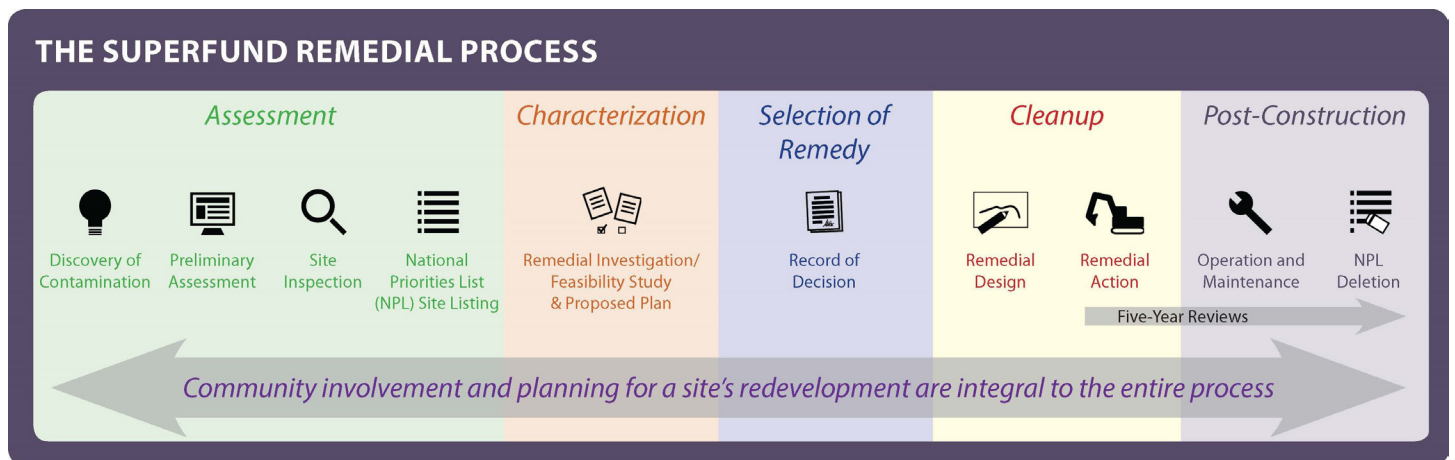
Sites are added to the NPL through the federal rulemaking process. After Pre-Remedial Site Assessment activities are completed, and it is determined that the site qualifies for the NPL, a letter of concurrence from the Governor is requested and a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Package is completed for the site to be proposed onto the NPL. During this proposal, EPA hosts a public comment period and addresses comments received. Public comment and the Hazard Ranking System Package all go into consideration for the site to be finalized on the list.



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NEXT STEPS

- Conduct a Site Reassessment (currently ongoing) to review available data and reports.
- Conduct Expanded Site Inspection to address data gaps, sample, and prepare for HRS Package.
- Develop a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Package.
- Receive letter of concurrence from Governor.
- Propose site to NPL.
- Begin 60-day public comment period.
- Finalize site to NPL.



More information on the site can be found at:
www.epa.gov/ma/national-fireworks

