

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities Listing of the 35th Avenue Superfund Site Birmingham, Alabama



Number 5

September 2014

Background

This fact sheet contains information regarding the recent proposed addition by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the 35th Avenue Superfund site to the National Priorities List (NPL). The site encompasses parts of three neighborhoods—Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park in northern Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama (see site boundary map on Page 3). Residential soils have been contaminated from air deposition or “borrow” fill soil potentially from the operation of several industrial facilities in the area.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding NPL Listing

What is the National Priorities List?

The NPL is a list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for investigation and possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list serves as an information and management tool for the Superfund cleanup process as required under the Superfund law. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a site. The EPA is required by law to update the NPL at least once a year (EPA is currently updating the NPL two times a year). Placing a site on the NPL does not assign liability to any party or to the owner of any specific property; nor does it mean that any cleanup action will necessarily be taken.

How are sites listed on the NPL?

There are three ways a site is eligible for the NPL:

Scores at least 28.50: A site may be included on the NPL if it scores sufficiently high on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS), which is a mathematical formula that serves as a screening device to evaluate a site’s threat to human health or the environment. As a matter of EPA policy, those sites that score 28.50 or greater on the HRS are eligible for inclusion on the NPL. This is the most common way a site becomes eligible for the NPL. The 35th Avenue site scored a 50 on the HRS.

State Pick: Each state and territory may designate one top-priority site regardless of score.

ATSDR Health Advisory: The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues a health advisory that recommends removing people from the site and the EPA determines that the release poses a significant threat to public health.

Public meeting scheduled

A Public Meeting to discuss the NPL Listing and Remedial Process for the 35th Avenue Superfund site has been scheduled

Thursday October 9, 2014, 6:00 pm
Trinity CME Church
3313 Shuttlesworth Drive

For questions or more information on this meeting contact Stephanie Brown (contact information on the back)

**EPA Public Comment Period on NPL Listing
September 22-November 21, 2014**

See Page 2 for ways to submit comments.

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What happens to sites on the NPL?

The NPL listing allows the EPA to access additional public funding to clean up a site if the EPA cannot find a viable responsible party to pay for the work. This is in addition to the money that the EPA is spending on the removal actions. Listing a site on the NPL signals the start of the long-term Superfund investigation and cleanup process at a site, known as the Remedial Process. A site remains on the NPL until all cleanup is completed and cleanup goals have been achieved. A site can be deleted from the NPL after all cleanup goals are met.

How many NPL sites are there and where can I find more information on the NPL?

To date, the EPA has proposed 1,755 sites to the NPL. Of those, 383 have been deleted from the NPL. You may obtain additional information on the NPL, including a list of the sites and updated information by visiting: www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/

How do I review the information that the EPA used to support the NPL listing?

Materials compiled by the EPA to propose the 35th Avenue site to the NPL can be obtained in several ways:

1. www.regulations.gov
Under "enter key word or id" type in **EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0623**, which is the docket number for the 35th Avenue site.
Hit "search" to see all documents
2. Contact the Region 4 NPL Coordinator, Jennifer Wendel, whose contact information is on the last page, to have an electronic copy mailed to you (the materials are too extensive to print). You may also call Jennifer Wendel to make an appointment to view hard copies of the EPA records at the Regional office in Atlanta (address on the last page).

How do I submit comments on the proposal of the 35th Avenue site to the EPA?

All comments must be submitted in writing, and MUST include the docket number above. The public comment period is from **September 22 to November 21, 2014**.

You may post your comments anonymously on the www.regulations.gov web site.

Comments can also be submitted via email to: http://superfund.docket@epa.gov

Or mail a letter with your comments addressed to:

Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA Docket Office, 5305T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

What happens after the public comment period is closed?

The EPA will compile all comments received and prepare a response to those comments. This support document must be completed before the site is made final on the NPL. This usually occurs the next time the NPL is updated, and in this case would be the spring of 2015. However, if EPA receives significant comments the finalization of the site may be delayed to allow the EPA time to prepare a response.

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How might my community benefit from being on the NPL?

Listing a site on the NPL allows EPA to access additional resources to support community involvement in the Superfund process. These include formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG) and providing Technical Assistance Grants (TAG), which help communities hire trained professionals to interpret the EPA technical documents. The EPA has also introduced the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI), which encourages the employment of trainees at local Superfund cleanups. Finally, through the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, the EPA partners with communities to return Superfund sites to productive reuse.

When will the next phase, the long-term Remedial process, start at the site?

The EPA is already planning the next phase of investigation work for the 35th Avenue site. Additional community meetings and fact sheets are planned for the near future to discuss the Remedial process and outline a timeline for Remedial activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

Stephanie Y. Brown,
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or email Brown.StephanieY@epa.gov

EPA National Priorities List Coordinator

Jennifer Wendel
(404) 562-8799 or email: Wendel.Jennifer@epa.gov

EPA Community Outreach Office

1820 7th Avenue North, Suite 100
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-326-8640 (leave message)
<http://epa.gov/northbhamproject>

Information Repositories

Harriman Park Recreational Center
4347 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive
Birmingham, AL 35207

North Birmingham Public Library
2501 31st Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35207

U.S. EPA Region 4 Office
Records Center
61 Forsyth St, SW
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