



## EPA Begins Cleanup Work at the Superior Barrel and Drum Site

Elk Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Community Update

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If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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If you would like information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by the EPA, please contact:

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### Current Situation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting cleanup activities at the Superior Barrel and Drum Site located in Elk Township, NJ. The site is an abandoned drum and container recycling facility in a rural, wooded area. In August 2013 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requested the assistance of the EPA to perform an assessment at the facility. During the assessment, more than 2,000 containers including 55-gallon drums, industrial totes, and others were identified on-site, many of which had holes, were missing tops, or were bulging on the sides or bottom. Materials were seen leaking out of the containers and onto the surface soil. Very few of the containers were labeled. A warrant was issued to the property owner to allow the EPA to begin necessary cleanup work at the facility. The EPA is coordinating with the Gloucester County Fire Marshal's Office, Gloucester County HazMat Team, NJDEP, Elk Township Mayor's Office, and local police and fire departments to thoroughly investigate the site and remove hazardous materials.

### Site Investigation

The EPA sampled a variety of containers throughout the site and analyzed them for chemical characteristics. Results indicate that hazardous substances, such as volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, and other contaminants are located within numerous containers. The EPA field tested over 50 percent of containers and found many to be flammable, corrosive, or containing other hazardous characteristics. To prevent material from migrating off the facility's property, the EPA has installed protective barriers around the drums and totes. In addition, fencing has been placed along the site where it borders a public road to prevent the public from coming into contact with containers or hazardous materials. Hand-held air monitoring equipment is utilized whenever containers are inspected, opened, or sampled. Air monitoring stations are also set up in seven locations around the perimeter and in various work zones. Security guards are posted near the entrance to the facility in order to discourage the public from entering the work areas.

In addition to container sampling, the EPA has also collected surface soil and surface water samples. Results are pending for surface water samples, however sample results indicate that hazardous substances have impacted surface soils.

### Next Steps

The EPA and other partner agencies will continue to conduct field tests in order to determine the contents of the drums and industrial totes. Once the testing is completed, the EPA will remove containers and their contents from the site. Materials will be sent to appropriate disposal facilities designed to handle hazardous waste.

<http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/removal/superiorbarrel/>

Questions	Answers
What is being done to protect the public when containers, such as drums, are opened to be tested?	Measures are in place to protect the public and on-site workers. Air monitoring units have been installed along the perimeter of the site and in areas where crews are working. Sensors are set up to detect airborne contamination, sound an alarm and notify personnel to close containers. Operations would be stopped and work re-evaluated prior to re-starting activities.
What has been done to protect the environment so far?	The EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment. During an assessment of the site, many containers were found to be leaking contents onto soils. The EPA has installed protective berms to stop material from spreading. This will also act as an engineering control should a larger release occur due to a compromised container. All material will be held in the containment cell preventing migration to surface waters or neighboring properties.
Who is performing the cleanup actions and removal of contamination?	Local and Gloucester County officials discovered the facility in its current deteriorated state. NJDEP and county HazMat were contacted and identified potential hazardous substances. Due to the size of the project and amount of resources needed to undertake an action, the EPA was asked by the NJDEP to assist.
Who is funding this project?	Funding for this project is through the federal Superfund program, administered by the EPA and not through local tax revenues. Local taxes will not be utilized for assessment operations, analytical testing, or removal activities associated with this project.
Is the ground water impacted by contamination found at the site?	There has been no sampling of ground water at this time. The EPA is evaluating the hazardous substances located in the containers in order to remove them as soon as possible. Once the containers are removed, we will characterize soil contamination, determine impacts to surface waters, and sample the ground water if a threat is identified.
What is the time frame for this project?	The EPA is working to have all containers field tested by the middle of December. After testing, materials of the same characteristics will be consolidated and prepared for disposal by Spring 2014.