

Public Notice

**U.S. EPA Announces a Proposed Plan for Keefe Environmental Services Superfund Site**

EPA has released a Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Keefe Environmental Services Superfund Site (Site or Keefe Site), located in Epping, NH. The Proposed Plan revises the cleanup of groundwater contamination at the Site.

EPA has scheduled a public information meeting to be immediately followed by a formal public hearing to receive comment on the plan.

The public information meeting will take place on **August 28, 2017 at 7:15pm** at the Epping Town Hall followed by the Public Hearing. These events will take place during the Town Board of Selectmen's meeting which will begin at 7 pm.

The Proposed Plan presents EPA's fundamental change to the current cleanup remedy for the Site. In a 1988 Record of Decision (ROD), EPA selected a cleanup remedy for the entire Site (for both soil and groundwater) which required the extraction and on-site treatment of groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A 1990 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) augmented the 1988 cleanup by removing a requirement for the vacuum extraction of Site soils, as subsequent sampling showed that the concentrations of contaminants in the soils were already below the soil cleanup standards specified in the ROD. The remedy was again augmented in a 2005 ESD following the identification of a new contaminant, 1,4-dioxane, in groundwater.

While the cleanup actions, performed since 1981, have significantly removed contaminant mass and reduced contaminant concentrations, groundwater contamination still remains elevated above drinking water standards at the Site. EPA is proposing to amend the 1988 ROD. The revised groundwater remedy will include monitored natural attenuation (MNA) of groundwater as a new component to attain cleanup in groundwater, instead of extraction and on-site treatment, because MNA is expected to attain groundwater cleanup levels in a similar timeframe. The revised groundwater remedy will retain original components of the remedy which require restoration and management of the migration of contaminants.

**EPA's Proposed Plan generally includes the following components:**

- Reducing contaminant concentrations in groundwater through natural physical and biological processes (natural attenuation);
- Monitoring and assessing the natural attenuation of contaminants in groundwater within the Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ), where drinking water standards will eventually be achieved; and
- Managing the use of contaminated groundwater within the GMZ until cleanup levels are met in the future.

**Opportunity to learn more and provide comment on the Proposed Plan:**

A Public Informational Meeting and Formal Public Meeting will be held on:  
August 28, 2017  
Epping Town Hall: 157 Main Street Epping, NH 03042  
7:15 pm

Representatives from EPA and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) will present the various cleanup options and answer any questions residents may have concerning the Proposed Plan, prior to opening up for the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. The meetings are open to all and fully accessible.

During the formal hearing, the public is invited to provide verbal comment on the Proposed Plan that will be recorded as part of the public record for the Site. EPA will not respond to comments at the hearing but will provide written responses in a Responsiveness Summary, which is part of the Record of Decision for the Site.

The public meeting and hearing are in conjunction with EPA's 30-day Public Comment period for the Proposed Plan that will run from August 14, 2017 through September 13, 2017. Written comments may be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Cheryl Sprague  
Superfund Project Manager  
US EPA Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Mail Code: OSRR07-1  
Boston, MA 02019-3912

email: [Sprague.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:Sprague.cheryl@epa.gov)  
FAX: 617-918-0244

**How to obtain a copy of EPA's Proposed Plan for Keefe Environmental Services Superfund Site:**

EPA's Proposed Plan for the **Keefe Superfund Site** will be available for review on the EPA web site at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/keefe> and at the NHDES website at <http://www4.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/SiteDocuments.aspx?SiteNumber=198710024> .

Copies of the proposed plan will also be made available at the **Epping Town Hall, 157 Main Street Epping, NH 03042** or can be requested by contacting Jim Murphy at [Murphy.jim@epa.gov](mailto:Murphy.jim@epa.gov) or 617-918-1028.

**Next Steps:**

EPA will select a cleanup plan for the Site in a Record of Decision after the close of the public comment period.

**Background Information:**

The 7-acre Keefe Environmental Services (KES) Superfund Site is located in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. A chemical waste storage facility operated on site from 1978 until 1981, when the company filed for bankruptcy. Waste storage containers on-site at that time included 4,100 drums, four 5,000-gallon and four 10,000-gallon aboveground storage tanks, and a 400,000-gallon synthetically lined lagoon. Solvents, acids, caustics, heavy metals, paint sludges, waste oils and organic chemicals were disposed of at the Site. Facility operations led to soil and groundwater contamination on and off the Site. The Site is located in a state-protected watershed with wetland areas draining to the Piscassic and Fresh Rivers. Following construction of the Site's remedy, groundwater extraction and treatment operated from 1993 through 2011, and environmental monitoring is ongoing.

For more information, please visit Keefe Environmental Services Site  
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/keefe>

###