



SUPERFUND

Former Microfab, Inc. Superfund Site Amesbury, 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.

DESCRIPTION

The Microfab, Inc. (Former) Site (the "Site") is located at 104-106 Haverhill Road in Amesbury, MA, and is situated in a mixed commercial and residential area. The 14-acre property includes a large factory building, a detached former wastewater treatment plant building, paved parking areas, undeveloped woods and wetlands. The buildings are abandoned and in poor structural condition. The property has been unoccupied since 1987. Industrial operations were conducted between 1950 and 1987, and included metal parts manufacturing, printed circuit board production, electroplating, and other associated metal finishing. During this time, the property was used for waste disposal, including hazardous substances. According to historical records, three main sources of contamination included: (1) outfall pipe from the factory building to an unnamed stream and wetlands; (2) spills, releases, and improper waste management; and (3) dry wells/leach fields used for underground disposal. EPA was unable to locate a party to claim ownership or grant access to the property, so EPA obtained an Administrative Inspection Warrant through the Federal court to perform a remedial investigation pursuant to Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e).

EPA'S INVOLVEMENT

Between 1988 and 1991, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conducted various investigations that included sampling, fencing off contaminated soils, and constructing a groundwater extraction and treatment system, which operated from 1991 to 2012. In 2015, EPA performed a Site Inspection (SI) which detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals, semi-VOCs (SVOCs), and cyanide in elevated concentrations consistent with State investigations. In 2016, MassDEP completed a hazardous materials survey of the factory building, which identified the presence of residual waste chemicals.

EPA Region 1 proposed the Site to the EPA National Priorities List ("NPL") on September 9, 2016, and it was included in the final listing of NPL sites by publication in the Federal Register

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microfab](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/microfab)



on August 3, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 36095). In July 2018, EPA initiated a remedial investigation (RI) to investigate the Site and determine the nature and extent of contamination. In January 2019, RI Phase I work was initiated, which included Site preparation (new entrance gate, fencing, landscaping), subsurface drilling, monitoring well installation, bedrock investigations, and Site surveys. Samples were collected from on- and off- property areas, including background locations which are not impacted by the Site. VOCs detected in groundwater include trichloroethylene (TCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and vinyl chloride. Metals (including copper, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, lead and nickel), mercury, cyanide, and TCE were detected in soil and sediment. A detailed Data Evaluation Report was prepared to summarize the Phase I findings, and is available at: www.epa.gov/superfund/microfab

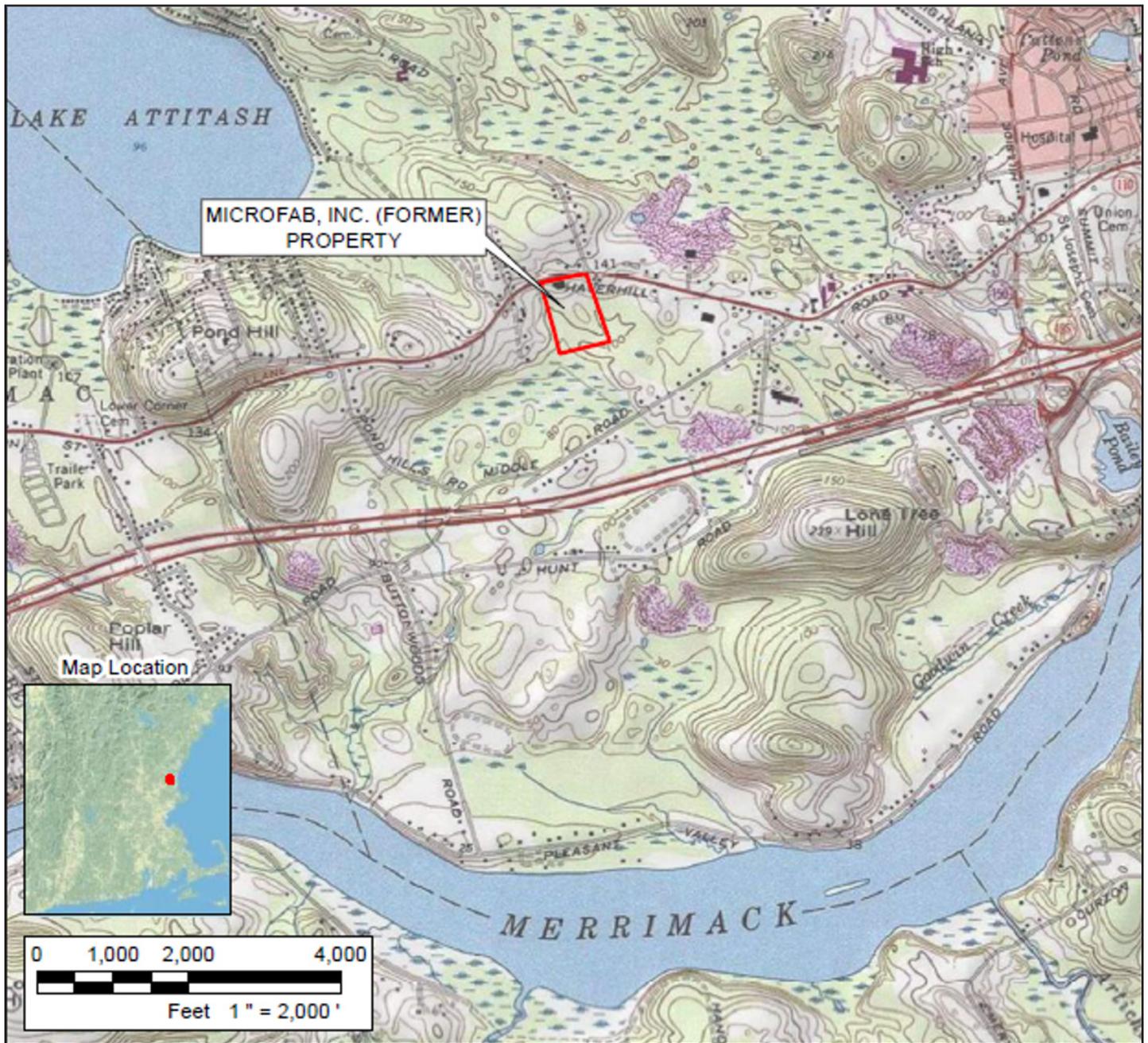
In April 2019, EPA initiated a time-critical removal action to sample, characterize, and remove the residual hazardous chemicals from tanks and other containers in the former production area of the factory building. The EPA removal program cleanup action was completed in July 2019.

In April 2021, EPA started RI Phase II, which is currently in progress. Field work has included high-resolution site characterization (HRSC) techniques and groundwater profiling for VOCs at depth, supplemental soil, sediment, pore water, surface water, and groundwater sampling, and soil-gas sampling to evaluate vapor intrusion potential. Other work has included a Site evaluation for the ecological risk assessment, additional landscaping, fence repairs, and new signage to deter trespassers and inform about the presence of hazardous materials. Accessible ground-level openings into the factory building were sealed off with plywood.

CURRENT SITE STATUS/NEXT STEPS

After a site is listed on the NPL, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is performed at the site. The RI collects data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment, and conduct treatability testing to evaluate treatment technologies that are being considered. The FS is utilized for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives being considered for the Site. Data collected during the RI influences the development of remedial alternatives for the FS. This phased approach encourages the continual scoping of the site characterization effort, which minimizes the collection of unnecessary data and maximizes data quality.

In 2018-2019, EPA commenced the Site RI, which is currently in progress. Residents or passerby can anticipate seeing periodic activity at the Site, including field equipment and workers in protective clothing or hard hats performing field investigation activities. On February 17, 2022, EPA and MassDEP held a virtual meeting with City of Amesbury officials and representatives to provide a Site status update, discuss future community involvement assistance, and address questions and concerns. EPA is also in the process of preparing a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Site.



Site Locus: Newburyport - West, MA-NH 1968 (Revised 1979)

Map Source: Nobis Group® (March 2020)