United States Environmental Protection Agency

CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS SUPERFUND SITE
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Summer 2025

Upcoming Activities

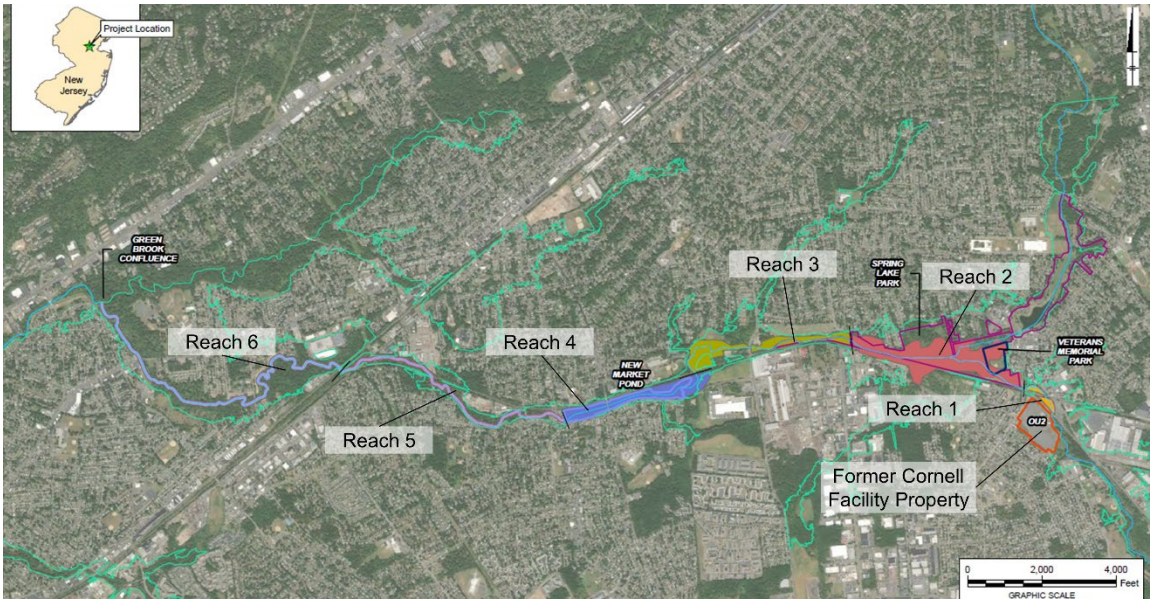
Beginning this fall, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA, will remove trees and other plants from the Bound Brook area in Veterans Memorial Park as part of the cleanup of the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund site located in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The EPA will safely dispose of soil and sediment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, found along the Bound Brook and the surrounding areas. The agency will redirect surface water, dig up the PCB-containing floodplain soil and Bound Brook sediment, and dredge New Market Pond. The EPA and its contractors will also set up temporary trailers, install equipment and storage containers to the work area, and temporarily install and operate a water treatment plant. Some site workers may be dressed in protective clothing to keep contaminated soil off their clothes and may wear dust masks, but this does not mean that there is a risk to surrounding residents. The EPA and its contractors will be transporting the soil removed from the Bound Brook by truck to staging areas that are covered to control dust and prevent soil runoff. The EPA will then transport the soil by trucks to permitted disposal facilities.

The EPA expects this work, which will be done in stages, also referred to as reaches, to take approximately five years to complete.

Update on Long-term Cleanup Activities

The remaining work to cleanup site-related contamination, including removing sediment from the Bound Brook and soil from the brook's floodplain, is split into six smaller sections, called reaches. The most upstream and closest to the Cornell-Dubilier facility property is Reach 1, and the furthest downstream is Reach 6. The EPA finished cleanup activities in Reach 1 in March 2024. The EPA will begin cleanup activities for Reaches 2 through 4 this fall.



Health and Safety in the Community

Air: The EPA will monitor the air during cleanup activities to ensure site workers and the community are protected from any dust.

Traffic: Residents may experience increased traffic, including truck traffic, in surrounding roadways. The EPA and its contractors are working closely with the Borough of South Plainfield, Piscataway Township and Middlesex County to coordinate traffic control to lessen the disruption and to answer questions about the cleanup activities.

Noise: Residents living near the work area may hear noise or feel vibrations similar to those activities from other construction projects such as road work.

Fish Consumption Advisory: The EPA is ensuring that signs are posted to remind anglers and other recreational users that PCBs are present in the sediment and fish in the Bound Brook and New Market Pond, and that fish from these waterways should not be eaten due to the negative health effects of consuming PCBs.

Other Safety Measures: The EPA and its contractors will be installing and maintaining fencing and barriers in the work areas along the Bound Brook.

Past Activities

The EPA has been cleaning up the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Inc. Superfund site since 2005. The EPA is currently cleaning up the Bound Brook portion of the site in stages, referred to as reaches, and in March 2024, completed the first of six phases of digging up and disposing of contaminated soil and sediment from the Bound Brook.

The agency disposed of the PCB capacitor debris off-site, relocated a 36-inch waterline that cut across the former Cornell-Dubilier facility property to a safer location, and built a groundwater extraction and treatment facility that continues to capture and treat groundwater contaminated with trichloroethylene, or TCE, along the property to prevent the contamination from migrating to the Bound Brook. The EPA also addressed contamination at the former facility property and at residential, commercial and municipal properties in the vicinity of the former facility property during previous phases of cleanup work over the years.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs have no known smell or taste. PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils. For more information, please visit: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a colorless, volatile, and nonflammable liquid that evaporates quickly into the air. It has a sweet odor and has been used as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts and as a chemical that is used to make other chemicals, especially refrigerant. For more information, please visit: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf

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Site Background

Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. operated a 26-acre facility located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, New Jersey. The former property is now largely paved because of the EPA's cleanup work, and the surrounding eastern and northern areas include floodplains bordering the Bound Brook, which flows adjacent to and downstream of the former property. During site operations, the company released and buried material containing PCBs and chlorinated volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, primarily TCE, which contaminated soil on the site.

The EPA also found PCBs and VOCs from the former facility in the groundwater and PCBs from the former facility on nearby residential, commercial and municipal properties, as well as in the surface water and sediment of Bound Brook and its downstream floodplain soil. The EPA added the site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List in July 1998.

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