Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site

Community Update

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jackson Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania — March 2023

Site Location

The Whitmoyer Laboratories Main Site is located on approximately 22 acres in Jackson Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, about 1 mile southwest of the Borough of Myerstown. The site lies between the Union Canal of Tulpehocken Creek and the Conrail (Reading) Railroad. Fairlane Avenue forms the Main Site's eastern boundary, while Creamery Street borders the site on the west. A portion of the Site that has a capped area extends to the north and east of the Main Site as shown in the figure below.

Construction to Begin This Spring

In February 2022, EPA formalized a change to the original cleanup plan for the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site. This change is known as an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). This ESD plans for the construction of two groundwater interceptor trenches along Tulpehocken Creek near Fairlane Avenue. The trenches will capture shallow groundwater with arsenic contamination. The contaminated groundwater will be pumped from the trenches to the existing groundwater treatment plant on Fairlane Avenue. The groundwater treatment plant has been successfully treating arsenic contaminated groundwater since 1997. The trenches will lead to a small increase in the volume of water being treated at the treatment plant, however the plant has sufficient excess capacity to handle the increase. These trenches will prevent arsenic in the shallow groundwater from discharging into Tulpehocken Creek. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2023 and be completed in the summer or fall of 2023.

Availability Session

You're invited to join us for an Availability Session. At this informal session, citizens can talk with EPA and other partners about the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site and the planned construction.

Representatives will be available to answer questions related to the upcoming construction work at the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site. Construction plans for this project will also be available for viewing.

Date: **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

Location: **Jackson Twp. Municipal Building**
60 N Ramona Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

Time: **6:00pm to 7:30pm**

What will the Construction Consist of?

Two trenches will be excavated and constructed on the Site. Both trenches will be constructed along the south bank of Tulpehocken Creek.

- One trench will be approximately 200-foot-long extending west from Fairlane Avenue up to the merging of Tulpehocken Creek and Union Canal. This trench will be located between the Tulpehocken Creek/Union Canal and the parking lot at Jackson Park.
- The other trench will be approximate 350-foot-long extending east from Fairlane Avenue onto property owned by Bayer.

The trenches will be filled with coarse stone and lined with an impermeable geomembrane liner. The trenches will capture shallow groundwater and pump it through piping to the groundwater treatment plant. The groundwater treatment plant is located at the southeast end of Jackson Park near Fairlane Avenue. Once the water is treated, it will be discharged to Tulpehocken Creek.

What will the Community See During Construction Work?

During the work, the community will see standard construction vehicles, such as excavators and dump trucks. There is the potential for extra truck traffic along Fairlane Avenue as trucks remove soil and bring construction materials to the Site. The construction area will be fenced off to prevent the public from accessing the work area.

It will likely be necessary to temporarily stage the excavated soil before it's removed from the site. The staged soils will be inside the fenced work area and will be placed on a geomembrane liner to prevent contact with the ground surface. If left overnight, the staged soil piles will be covered with plastic sheeting. Once the work is completed, surface soil samples will be collected to confirm that the ground surface was not impacted by the trench construction.

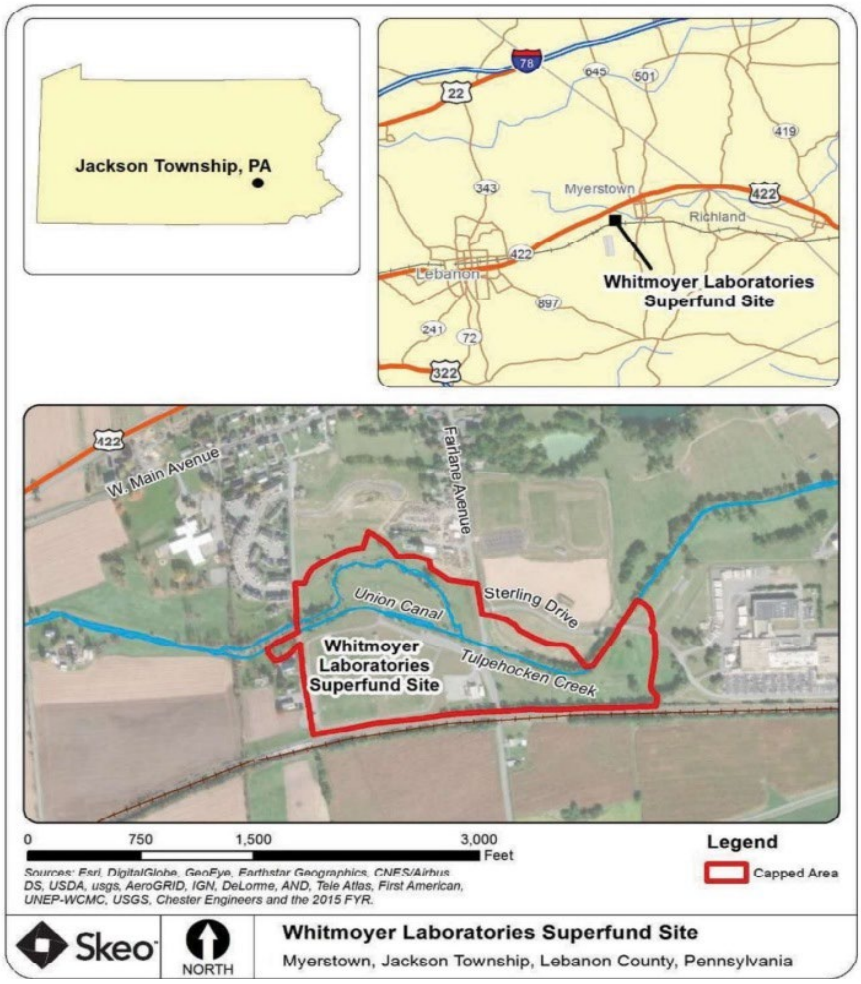
Will the Construction Affect Jackson Recreational Park or Fairlane Avenue Park?

Construction vehicles will be required to park in designated locations. However, construction still may temporarily affect parking at Jackson Park. As work begins at the Site, residents may notice an odor from contaminated soils that are exposed. The odors, if they occur, are only a nuisance and do not pose a risk to human health or the environment. The contractor will use a dust suppression program to prevent dust or particulate matter from entering the air. They will also be performing air monitoring to confirm the dust suppression program is adequate.

Brief Site History

In 1934, C. W. Whitmoyer formed Whitmoyer Laboratories, Incorporated (WLI). The company manufactured veterinary pharmaceuticals between 1934 and 1984. Arsenic compounds were produced and stored at the site. The site itself featured 17 buildings, 23 storage tanks, a concrete storage vault, 15 lagoons, a waste pit, a petroleum products pipeline, and pump station, plus a railroad spur. The laboratory changed ownership from Whitmoyer to Rohm & Haas in 1964, to Smith-Kline Beecham in 1978, and to Stafford Laboratories in 1982. In 1964, Rohm & Haas detected arsenic pollution in the soils, groundwater, and surface water. The cause of this pollution was due to previous disposal of wastes in the soils and unlined lagoons. Lagoon sludge was placed in a concrete vault built to store the sludge and other contaminated materials.

EPA proposed the Site to the NPL in October 1984 and the Site was added to the NPL in July 1986. The original cleanup of soils was completed in 2002. Groundwater treatment and landfill cap operation and maintenance activities are ongoing at the Site.



The three maps above show the location of the Whitmoyer Laboratories Superfund Site.

Questions? Please Contact Us!

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