

# Solvents Recovery Service of New England Southington, CT

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**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.

## INTRODUCTION:

Collaboration among key stakeholders at this former solvent recycling facility resulted in a beneficial reuse of the property that was integrated into the overall cleanup. A former railroad right-of-way that passes through the site was renovated, adding a new section to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, a regional "rails-to-trails" greenway which covers approximately 84 miles from New Haven, CT to Northampton, MA ([www.farmingtoncanal.org](http://www.farmingtoncanal.org)).

## KEY CONTACTS:

### KAREN LUMINO

EPA Region 1 Superfund  
Project Manager  
(617) 918-1348  
[lumino.karen@epa.gov](mailto:lumino.karen@epa.gov)

### KATE MELANSON

Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
(617) 918-1491  
[melanson.kate@epa.gov](mailto:melanson.kate@epa.gov)

### SHANNON POCIU

CT DEEP Remediation  
Division Project Manager  
(860) 424-3546  
[shannon.pociu@ct.gov](mailto:shannon.pociu@ct.gov)

## GENERAL INFO:

### EPA NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Square  
Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(617) 918-1111  
[www.epa.gov/region1](http://www.epa.gov/region1)

**EPA TOLL-FREE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
1-888-EPA-7341

### LEARN MORE AT:

[www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/srs](http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/srs)

## SAVE THE DATE

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
**10am on September 21, 2017**

90 Lazy Lane, Southington, CT

Celebrating Completion of Site  
Construction and Opening of the Trail

## BACKGROUND:

The remedy selected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Solvents Recovery Service of New England, Inc. (SRSNE) Superfund site included capping contaminated soils in the operations area of the former recycling facility and the adjacent railroad right-of-way (ROW). The ROW was purchased by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) with the goal of extending a rails-to-trails greenway. A group of former SRSNE customers performing the cleanup under federal and state over-

sight integrated the greenway into the cap design, and this summer, completed construction of the path where it crosses the site and beyond, extending it from Curtiss Street to Lazy Lane (see Figure 1). Work includes a trail access parking lot at Lazy Lane that also provides overflow parking for the Southington Police Department across the street. The cap was also designed to allow for the future installation of solar panels that will supply power to the pumps that contain the groundwater plume.

Additionally, the Town of Southington was able to secure a grant from CT DEEP to rebuild a former railroad bridge where the trail crosses the Quinnipiac River south of the site, and expects to be able to soon add an additional 3,000 feet of trail north of the site. The project illustrates how partnerships, collaborative planning efforts, and consideration of remedy and reuse can result in Superfund outcomes that protect public health and provide

*“The completion of this stretch of trail is a critical link in our overall northerly progress of the rail trail. We have successfully reached the town line in Cheshire to the south and look forward to connecting with our northerly neighbor, Plainville to accomplish our goal. This cooperative effort with the PRPs shows the spirit of connectivity between the public and private sector via a multi-use trail.”*

~ Mark J. Sciota  
Deputy Town Manager  
Town of Southington

long-term benefits, restoring formerly blighted commercial property to beneficial use. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail extension will connect communities and encourage people young and old to get outside and walk, bike and play.

#### **CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED:**

From 1955 to 1991, SRSNE distilled spent solvents at the facility (see Figure 2). Facility operations and poor housekeeping contaminated soil, wetlands, bedrock and groundwater with chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). EPA added the site to the Superfund program’s National Priorities List in 1983. Federal and state agencies worked with the owner to address significant violations with little success and in 1991, the facility closed. EPA and the group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) took immediate actions to stabilize the site while the full extent of contamination was being determined. These actions included dismantling all remnants of the recycling operation; lab waste disposal; removal of contaminated soil from ditches that drained to the Quinnipiac River; and construction of a containment system to capture and treat on site the groundwater plume that had migrated into the Curtiss Street Town Well Field.

In 2005, EPA issued a Record of Decision that set forth the multi-step environmental cleanup plan for the SRSNE Site. The PRP Group reached agreement with EPA in 2008 to perform the cleanup with EPA and CT DEEP oversight. Contaminated groundwater in both the overburden and bedrock aquifers continues to be contained and treated on site before being discharged to the Quinnipiac River. In-Situ

Thermal Remediation of 55,000 cubic yards of the most contaminated soils took place in 2014-15, removing 500,000 pounds of VOCs (Figure 3). Average groundwater VOC concentrations in the former recycling operations area have declined by 98% since that work took place. Naturally occurring micro-organisms also play an important role in the degradation of VOCs in groundwater, with an estimated 660,000 pounds degraded to date. The final component of the remedy selected in 2005 was consolidation of remaining contaminated soil and sediment, and construction of the multi-layer cap in 2017, which will prevent human contact with the contaminants (Figure 4).

#### **FUTURE CLEANUP EFFORTS:**

Although great strides have been made to address contamination at the SRSNE site, cleanup efforts will be needed for several more decades in order to meet the State of Connecticut’s goal for restoration of the groundwater to background levels. The SRSNE PRP Group will continue to perform the following, under federal and state oversight:

- Contain contaminated groundwater;
- Conduct long-term monitoring to ensure that groundwater contamination levels continue to decline and that all elements of the remedy continue to perform as expected;
- Place restrictions on future use of the property and surrounding properties; and
- Review the remedy every five years to ensure that it remains protective of human health and the environment.

Through July 2017, the PRP Group has spent approximately \$65 million to investigate and clean up the Site.



**Figure 1** – Aerial view of the site showing the completed bike trail and parking lot



**Figure 2** – From 1955-1991, the solvent recycling facility operated next to the Boston & Maine railroad



**Figure 3** – Thermal treatment in operation (2014-2015)



**Figure 4** – Construction of cap in former Operations Area in progress (July 2017)