

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities Listing of the Former Custom Cleaners Site Memphis, Tennessee

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Background

This fact sheet contains information regarding the proposed addition of the Former Custom Cleaners site (FCC) to the National Priorities List (NPL) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The FCC site is a former dry cleaning business which operated from approximately 1950 until the mid-1990s. The Site is located in commercially zoned area of east Memphis, Tennessee. Past operations have impacted subsurface soils and groundwater with the solvent perchloroethylene (PCE). The FCC site is bordered to the north by Southern Avenue, to the east by Minor Road, to the south by Spottswood Avenue, and to the west by South Highland Avenue.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding NPL Listing

What is the National Priorities List?

The NPL is a list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for investigation and possible long-term cleanup under Superfund, an EPA program that addresses hazardous waste sites. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites need further investigation and to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a site. EPA is required by law to update the NPL at least once a year (EPA is currently updating the NPL two times a year).

How are sites listed on the NPL?

There are three ways a site is eligible for the NPL:

1. **Scores at least 28.50:** A site may be included on the NPL if it scores sufficiently high on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS), which is a mathematical formula that serves as a scoring device to evaluate a site's threat to human health or the environment. As a matter of EPA policy, those sites that score 28.50 or greater on the HRS are eligible for inclusion on the NPL. This is the most common way a site becomes eligible for the NPL. The Former Custom Cleaners site scored a 50 on the HRS and is being proposed to the NPL based on its HRS score.
2. **State Pick:** Each state and territory may designate one top-priority site regardless of score.
3. **ATSDR Health Advisory:** The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues a health advisory that recommends removing people away from the site. EPA determined that the release poses a significant threat to public health, and anticipates it will be more cost-effective to use its remedial authority instead of its emergency removal authority to respond to the site. All of these conditions must be met and the HRS score is not taken into account.

Public Meeting Scheduled

A public meeting to discuss the NPL listing and remedial process for the Former Custom Cleaners site has been scheduled.

Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Memphis Botanic Garden

750 Cherry Road, Memphis, Tennessee

The public comment period for NPL listing is September 9 to November 8, 2016.

See page 2 for how to submit comments.

What happens to sites on the NPL?

The NPL listing allows EPA to access additional public funding to clean up a site if EPA cannot find a viable responsible party to pay for the work. Listing a site on the NPL signals the start of the long-term Superfund investigation and cleanup process at a site, known as the Remedial Process. A site remains on the NPL until all cleanup is completed and cleanup goals have been achieved. A site can be deleted from the NPL after all cleanup goals are met.

How many NPL sites are there and where can I find more information on the NPL?

To date, EPA has proposed 1,774 sites to the NPL. Of those, 391 have been deleted from the NPL. You may obtain additional information on the NPL, including a list of the sites and updated information by visiting: www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/.

How do I review the information that EPA used to support the NPL listing?

Starting in early September, materials compiled by EPA to propose the Former Custom Cleaners site to the NPL can be obtained in several ways:

1. Visit www.regulations.gov. Under “enter key word or ID” type in **EPA-HQ-OLEM-2016-0436**, which is the docket number for the Former Custom Cleaners site. Hit “search” to see all documents.
2. Contact the Region 4 NPL Coordinator, Cathy Amoroso, whose contact information is on the last page, to have an electronic copy mailed to you (the materials are too extensive to print). You may also call Cathy Amoroso to make an appointment to view hard copies of the EPA records at the Regional office in Atlanta (address on the last page).
3. EPA records can also be viewed at the Site’s local repository at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee during normal hours of operation.

How do I submit comments to EPA on the proposal of the Former Custom Cleaners site on the NPL?

All comments must be submitted in writing, and **MUST** include the docket number above. The public comment period will be from **September 9 to November 8, 2016**.

You may post your comments anonymously on the www.regulations.gov website.

Comments can also be submitted via email to: superfund.docket@epa.gov

Or mail a letter with your comments addressed to:

Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA Docket Office, 5305T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

What happens after the public comment period is closed?

EPA will compile all comments received and prepare a response to those comments. This support document must be completed before the site is made final on the NPL. This usually occurs the next time the NPL is updated and, in this case, would be the spring of 2017. However, if EPA receives significant comments the finalization of the site may be delayed to allow EPA time to prepare a response.



Source: Shelby County Register of Deeds 2015

How might my community benefit from being on the NPL?

Listing a site on the NPL allows EPA to access additional resources to support community involvement in the Superfund process. These include formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG) and providing Technical Assistance Grants (TAG), which help communities hire trained professionals to explain the EPA technical documents. EPA has also introduced the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI), which encourages local employment at Superfund cleanups. Finally, through the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, EPA partners with communities to return Superfund sites to productive reuse.

When will the next phase, the long-term Remedial process, start at the site?

EPA is already planning the next phase of investigation work for the FCC site. Additional community meetings and fact sheets are planned for the near future to discuss the Remedial process and create a timeline for Remedial activities. Additional information can also be obtained during the public meeting on October 6, 2016 at the Memphis Botanic Garden located at 750 Cherry Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38117.

Where can I find more information about the solvent perchloroethylene (PCE) at the FCC site?

Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical used for dry cleaning and is a nonflammable colorless liquid. More information on PCE can be found here:

- PCE: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf>