



South Pine Creek Road Site

April 1998

The South Pine Creek Road Site, also known as the Sweeney property, is a state Superfund waste site in Fairfield. The site contains waste material from coal tar. The waste material came from coal gasification plants and was dumped from 30 to 60 years ago. Coal gasification is the production of combustible gases from different grades of coal. The site is currently fenced in. Clean-up operations are scheduled to begin in the near future.

The CT Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to make sure the public health is protected during clean-up. This fact sheet was developed to answer questions about the site and its contaminants.

What is Involved with the Site Clean-up?

The soil containing the waste will be scooped up and de-watered - the water will be taken out of the soil and treated. The soil will then be trucked away and placed in a special waste landfill. The clean-up will last about one month. About ten truckloads of material will be removed per day during the operation.

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*CT Department of Public Health
CT Department of Environmental Protection*

What are the Contaminants?

The site contains several contaminants which are typical in coal tar and asphalt, and are of health concern. These include PAHs (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons) including naphthalene; cyanide; and sulfur compounds like hydrogen sulfide - a gas often found in landfills.

How Will Residents be Protected?

The DEP will ensure that health precautions will be taken during the clean-up. Air monitoring will be conducted on a continuing basis. A series of air-borne action levels have been developed. If any of the air measurements are higher than the action level, the site clean-up method will be changed. If necessary, the removal operation will be stopped and the site covered.

Will Local Residents be Affected?

During the clean-up efforts, you may notice odors, similar to roofing tar or a newly paved road (asphalt). It is possible that some individuals living very near the site or those who are sensitive to the chemicals will experience reversible effects such as headaches, nausea and dizziness. These effects should be temporary. The odors may be stronger on some days during the clean-up. During this time, you may want to keep your children inside and keep your windows closed. People with asthma and other respiratory problems may have a stronger reaction to the odors, and should consult their health provider. Residents closest to the site have been offered the option to move temporarily during the clean-up operation. Long-term exposures to these site contaminants at high concentrations may cause chronic health effects. However, because the clean-up will be completed quickly, long-term health effects are very unlikely to nearby residents.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

Health Questions:

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Clean-up Questions:

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