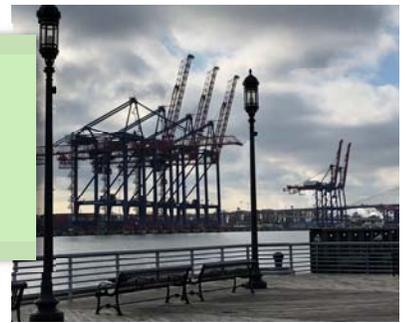




**COMMUNITY UPDATE
NEWARK BAY STUDY AREA
DIAMOND ALKALI SUPERFUND SITE OU3
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**



NOVEMBER 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for the Newark Bay Study Area, Operable Unit No. 3 (OU3) of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (Site) on June 3, 2022. The RI Report characterizes the distribution of contaminants in the sediments, surface water and biota of the Newark Bay Study Area; their fate and transport; and the risks they pose to human and ecological receptors. The RI report document is available online:

<http://www.ournewarkbay.org/RemedialInvestigation>

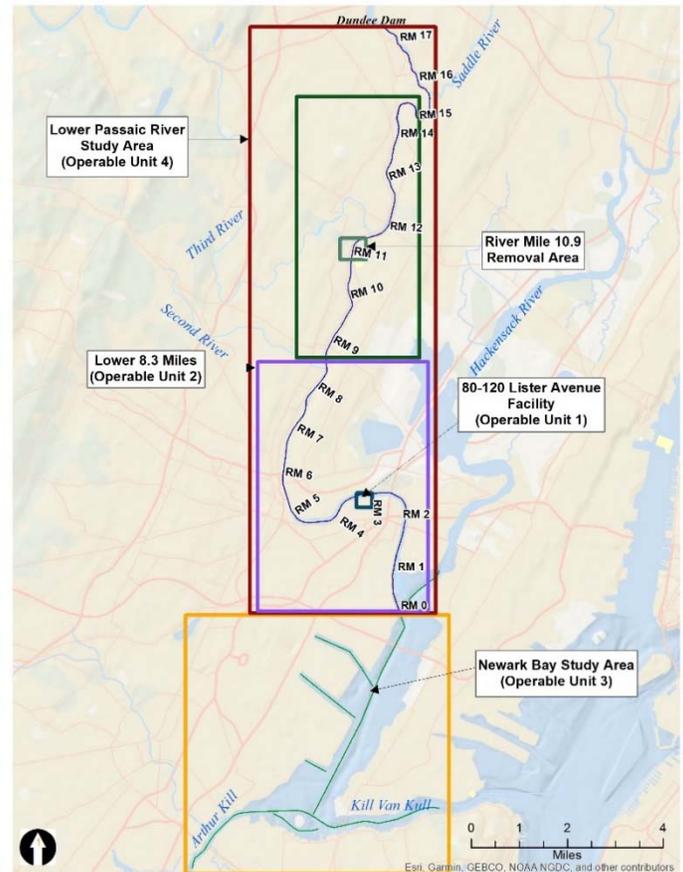
EPA is currently proceeding to the Feasibility Study phase of the project, which is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives for the Newark Bay Study Area.

Background

The Diamond Alkali Superfund Site is being cleaned up in phases. The Site includes the former Diamond Alkali Company facility at 80-120 Lister Avenue in Newark, NJ (OU1), the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River (OU2), the Newark Bay Study Area (OU3), and the 17-mile Lower Passaic River Study Area (OU4; also includes OU2).

In the early 1980s, EPA found soil contaminated with dioxin at the Diamond Alkali Company, a former pesticides manufacturing site. EPA added the Diamond Alkali Site to its Superfund National Priorities List in 1984. Subsequently, dioxins, pesticides and other hazardous substances were detected in sediment samples collected from the Lower Passaic River.

Because of river flow and the tidal nature of the Passaic River, EPA had reason to believe that contaminants had migrated beyond the boundary created for the Lower Passaic River Study; therefore, EPA signed an agreement with Occidental Chemical Corporation in 2004 to assess the nature and extent of contamination in the Newark Bay Study Area and will develop cleanup plans to address those problems, as necessary.



The Newark Bay Study Area includes Newark Bay and portions of the Hackensack River, the Arthur Kill, and the Kill Van Kull.

Newark Bay is part of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary, which is at the center of one of the most urbanized and industrialized parts of the U.S. Newark Bay is approximately six miles long and one mile wide and is located at the confluence of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, between the shores of Newark and Elizabeth to the west, Jersey City and Bayonne to the east, and Staten Island to the south. Newark Bay is linked to both the Upper and Lower New York Bay by the Kill Van Kull and the Arthur Kill, respectively. Port Newark, one of largest U.S. ports for containerized cargo, is located on the western shore of Newark Bay. The historical industrialization and urbanization of the Newark Bay area has resulted in habitat loss, sediment

contamination, degraded water quality, and the need for fish and shellfish consumption bans and advisories.

Next Step – the Feasibility Study

Following the publication of the RI Report, EPA commenced the development of the Feasibility Study (FS) Report. The FS will identify remedial alternatives to address unacceptable risks to human and ecological receptors caused by the detected sediment contamination in the Newark Bay Study Area. The forthcoming FS Report will conduct a detailed, comparative evaluation of a group of remedial alternatives by assessing them against nine criteria, namely, overall protection of human health and the environment; compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; long-term effectiveness and permanence; reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment; short-term effectiveness; implementability; cost; and both state and community acceptance. EPA will use the findings of the FS Report to select a remedy for the Newark Bay Study Area and present it in the Proposed Plan, as shown in the illustration of the Superfund process on this page.

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For information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, for concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by EPA, please contact: **George Zachos**, EPA Regional Public Liaison, (732) 321-6621 or (888) 283-7626, zachos.george@epa.gov.

