



Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Site Groton, MA

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

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Site (the Site) is located at 159 West Main Street, Groton, MA. The property was used in part as a shooting range from 1959 until potentially the late 1980s or early 1990s. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did an environmental investigation at the Site in August and September 2021. Sampling results determined that there is lead and arsenic contamination present in surface soil at the former shooting range, Groton Senior Center, and on a neighboring residential property.

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LEARN MORE AT:
response.epa.gov/Squannacook-SportsmansClub

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION:

EPA will be joining the Groton Board of Selectman meeting on September 6th at 7:30 pm to provide an update and answer questions. The meeting will be held in-person at 173 Main Street on the second floor in the Town Hall.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Groton did an assessment in 2021 of the Former Squannacook Sportsman Club property and found that there was an increased presence of lead in surface soil. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) confirmed the presence of lead above state standards in soil and referred the site to EPA.

In August and September of 2021, EPA collected soil samples, surface water samples, and groundwater samples from the former shooting range, the Groton Senior Center, and adjacent residential properties. Sampling results indicated the presence of lead and arsenic in soil samples above the EPA

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Removal Management Levels for residential properties. EPA determined that an imminent hazard to public health and the environment is present at the site. To address the imminent hazard, EPA will conduct a removal action to address the threat presented by the contamination.

REMEDIAL ACTIONS:

The actions that EPA will be taking are as follows: removal of vegetation, trees and debris; excavation of soil contaminated with lead; and removal of lead shot. During this work, a temporary fence will be erected around excavated areas until they are backfilled to grade and/or contaminated soil is made inaccessible. Additionally, the contaminated portions of the building on the source property will be removed. During this whole process, dust control and air monitoring will take place to prevent dust moving off-site. Soil and trees that must be removed during the excavation process will be replaced.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Starting early to mid-September 2022, as cleanup work begins, the community should expect to see personnel and heavy equipment moving around the site. Normal working hours will be between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The removal action is expected to take several months with an estimated completion sometime in spring/early summer 2023. Workers will be wearing white Personal Protection Equipment due to their direct contact with potentially contaminated materials. Disposal of the contaminated materials will take place at an off-site licensed facility. During this entire process, EPA will continue to work with the Town of Groton and MassDEP.



An abandoned building on-site where the indoor shooting range is located.



The outdoor shooting range covered in vegetation and debris.