

UNCONTROLLED SITES PROGRAM - INFORMATION SHEET
PORTLAND BANGOR WASTE OIL, ELLSWORTH (Robbins Property)

Location: 318 Bangor Road (U.S. Route 1A), Ellsworth, Maine

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Site History

Less than one acre in size, the Portland-Bangor Waste Oil Ellsworth (aka Robbins Property) Site (“Site”) is located in a residential area and is surrounded by an undeveloped wooded area. It is the site of a former waste oil storage and recycling facility owned and operated by George West (deceased). It was active from 1963 until 1980. Based on records obtained from Mr. West, the DEP determined that over 200 parties were responsible for the nearly 100,000 gallons of waste oil brought to the Site. Discharges of waste oils and solvents from Site activities contaminated the shallow and bedrock groundwater which eventually impacted off-site wells. The Site property was purchased by Ernest and Sundae Robbins in 1986, where they built a house in 1988. The DEP purchased the property from the Robbins' in 2001 in order to demolish the structure and clean-up the Site.

Need for Clean-Up

A source area containing waste oil and solvent (predominantly tetrachloroethylene [PCE]) was present under the Site's house and parking lot.

Contaminated groundwater impacted two local residential wells. The same contaminants as those found in on-site groundwater were found in a public water supply well at the Hancock County Technical Center.

Point of entry treatments systems (POETS) were installed by DEP on these wells to remove the contamination.

Site Clean-Up and Costs

After conducting an investigation and evaluating clean up options, DEP determined the preferred option was physical removal of the impacted soil with off-site disposal. In 2002, DEP contractors excavated and disposed of 1,165 tons of special waste, 824 tons of hazardous waste, and treated 10,350 gallons of contaminated water from dewatering the excavation. Special waste soils were taken to the Pine Tree Landfill facility in Hampden, ME for disposal; the hazardous waste soils were taken to the GSI facility in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada for treatment and disposal. This action was completed in December 2002.



Area groundwater remains contaminated. POETS remain on the private and public water supply wells to remove the contaminants. DEP continues to monitor the Site groundwater and the water in these wells.

To date, Site investigation and clean up have cost the State over \$908,113. Future monitoring and maintenance costs are projected to be over \$50,000 (not including DEP staff costs). Extension of a waterline to the impacted area would cost about \$2.8M