

An Overview of the Shell 85 Willow Street Site Remediation and Restoration Project



85 Willow Street – Project Site

Site History

Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US (Shell) is conducting an ongoing environmental investigation and remediation of impacts to soils and groundwater at 85 Willow Street (Block 24.03, Lot 35).

In 1995, Bell Atlantic (now known as Verizon New Jersey) began the initial environmental investigation and remediated two areas of concern. A third area is the responsibility of Shell Eastern Petroleum, which owned the Site from 1931 – 1968 and operated it as a bulk storage facility for tar (consisting of bitumen material commonly used in asphalt, sealant, roofing and waterproofing tar commercial products). PSE&G purchased the property in 2021 and is not responsible for the Site's remediation.

Since 2016, Shell has been conducting an ongoing investigation of impacts to soil by tar and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs. This work is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and under the oversight of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional.

Focus of the Remediation

The focus of the current remedial work is to address impacts to soils at 85 Willow Street, which were found in the subsurface soil and groundwater at the Site.

Shell's environmental contractor will remove approximately 16,000 cubic yards of impacted soil and replace it with clean fill. Depending on impacts, excavation will take place between approximately 1 and 13 feet below ground surface. Impacted soils will be transported offsite to a licensed facility either for beneficial reuse or proper disposal.

Following remediation, onsite areas will be backfilled to original grade. If necessary, offsite areas affected by the project activities will be restored in coordination with property owners and in compliance with all applicable Borough of East Rutherford ordinances.

Schedule

Mobilization of equipment and site preparation is expected to begin in mid- June 2023. Soil removal will begin in July. The project is anticipated to last about three months, from site preparation through final restoration.

Work will take place weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. No weekend excavation work is planned.

What You Can Expect to See

Preparing Site for Remediation - To access impacted soils safely, some trees located on neighboring properties and other vegetation will need to be removed with the permission of the respective property owners. Asphalt will be removed from the Site in sections as each area is prepared for excavation.

For More Information

Visit our website www.willowstreetproject.com
Call the Project Information Line: 201-494-4886
Email us at comments@WillowStreet.com

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Onsite Controls for Surface Water and

Groundwater - Shell will maintain soil erosion and sediment controls to manage surface water from storm events. An onsite pumping and treatment system will control groundwater and surface water accumulations during excavation and backfilling. Treated groundwater will be discharged in accordance with a NJDEP permit and with the approval of the Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Workers in Protective Clothing - Workers performing certain activities will wear personal protective equipment. All workers wear high visibility vests, hard hats, safety glasses and steel toe boots. Other protective gear may include gloves and over boots.

Trucks Carrying Materials – Trucks will be bringing clean soil and restoration materials to the Site. Excavated soil will be trucked to licensed facilities where it will be treated for beneficial reuse or proper disposal. Trucks will be covered and wheels cleaned prior to leaving the Site. Trucks will enter and exit the project via Willow Street.

Trucks will be staged either onsite or at an offsite location approved by the East Rutherford police. Trucks will not be staged on Willow Street.

Protecting Health and Safety

Air Monitoring Equipment and Dust Control

Measures - Air monitors will be installed along the perimeter of the active work areas and periodic confirmatory air samples will be collected throughout the project. Control measures (such as water mist, foam spray, plastic sheeting and sand cover) will be used proactively to control potential dust and mitigate odors during excavation and non-work periods, including evenings and weekends.

Mitigating Odors Typical of Tar - Odors associated with some constituents can often be detected at levels that are well below what would be considered a health concern and often below what can be detected by an air monitoring instrument. While the project team is committed to minimizing them, odors similar to fresh asphalt may at times persist.

Summary of Remedial Actions to Date

In 2016, Shell collected soil samples as part of an initial site investigation. Additional soil samples were completed in 2022.

In 2017, Shell installed monitoring wells to evaluate onsite groundwater quality. Data collected from the monitoring wells indicate that groundwater impacts are delineated.

A proposed Classification Exception Area (CEA), an institutional control for impacts to groundwater, was submitted to the NJDEP. Groundwater is not a source of local drinking water.

In 2019, the Site Investigation Report and Remedial Investigation Report – both reviewed by the LSRP - were submitted to NJDEP documenting work completed to date.

In 2021, PSE&G removed a building in preparation for the remediation.

About the Constituents

The potential concerns with tar compounds are associated with ingestion (eating) of the affected soil or drinking from the affected groundwater. The fencing, asphalt cover, vegetation and building foundation at the Site all have served as effective barriers to the materials in the soil.

Groundwater in the area is not a source of drinking water for East Rutherford's municipal water system, which is serviced by Veolia.

Keeping the Community Informed

We are committed to keeping neighbors and the Borough of East Rutherford officials informed and maintaining open communications.

The 85 Willow Street Project held a webinar in October 2022 and an in-person Community Information Session in June 2023. Information from both sessions will be posted at the project website – www.willowstreetproject.com.