

Gowanus Canal Superfund Site Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Search Status - January 2013

As of January 2013, EPA has sent notices of potential liability to thirty-one companies, New York City, the US Navy, the US Postal Service, the US General Services Administration, the US Maritime Administration and the former owner of a company. Those parties were also sent information request letters. Seventy-three other companies have been sent information request letters as well. The recipients of each type of letter are listed below.

EPA has taken various other enforcement-related steps related to the Canal. In April 2010, EPA entered into administrative consent orders with New York City and National Grid to provide work in support of EPA's remedial investigation. In September 2010, EPA entered into a judicial bankruptcy consent decree with Chemtura Corp. under which Chemtura paid EPA \$3.9 million to resolve its liability with respect to the Site. Chemtura also agreed to perform cleanups at their former Court Street facilities in Red Hook under the oversight of the NYSDEC.

How EPA Identifies PRPs

EPA typically gathers the names of possible parties from many sources. For the Gowanus Canal, these sources include the "Phase 1" investigation done in 2004 by the US Army Corps of Engineers based mainly on environmental databases; historic Sanborn maps; online archives; state and local records; and from information submitted by other parties, including New York City, National Grid and members of the public.

EPA then typically sends each party an information request letter, the Superfund equivalent of a subpoena. Because many Gowanus-related records are decades old, EPA is often allowing parties 3-6 months to respond. In some instances, companies have moved or changed names, requiring several service attempts, or the company may turn out to be bankrupt or defunct.

In general, the companies have been responsive. EPA has obtained several hundred thousand pages of records and expects to receive hundreds of thousands of pages of additional documents. When EPA has adequate information at the outset, EPA may issue a notice letter at the same time as an information request letter. Other parties who have answered information requests but were not simultaneously named as PRPs may later be given a notice of potential liability. For a long-term remedial project such as this, EPA may continue to pursue parties until the statute of limitations runs, which is 6 years after the cleanup is started.

It should be noted that a notice of potential liability is not a legal determination that a party is in fact responsible, only a warning that EPA believes this may possibly be the case as of the time of the notice. EPA may revise a party's status as additional information is received. A notice letter is also intended to provide a party with an opportunity to participate in the Superfund process.

Superfund Settlements

Under the Superfund law, parties may be jointly and severally liable for a cleanup. This means

that each given party is theoretically liable for the entire cleanup. Contribution among joint and severally liable parties is often resolved through settlements which take into account an equitable allocation of the cleanup costs. This allocation may be based on a variety of factors such as waste volume and toxicity in order to estimate each party's relative waste contribution. The financial capability of responsible parties may vary widely. The size of a company does not necessarily reflect their share of the waste. EPA has a variety of Superfund enforcement tools to ensure that contributors pay an appropriate share. These include issuing unilateral administrative orders mandating a cleanup under threat of penalties and treble damages, filing a civil suit, and entering into ability to pay settlements, particularly for small businesses and individuals. EPA currently expects to negotiate a settlement with all of PRPs for performance of the cleanup after the final remedy is selected. In appropriate circumstances, EPA may reach separate settlements with certain parties.

List of Notice of Potential Liability and Information request letters recipients

Below is the current list of parties that have been sent some form of EPA correspondence regarding the Gowanus Canal. Due to mergers, name changes and other corporate transactions, the name of the original company which operated at the Canal may have changed multiple times over a century or more. The companies with whom EPA has corresponded are listed below. The names of companies which EPA believes may be related to the recipients are shown in parentheses. Several companies (such as Rio Tinto Alcan, BP and Dupont) that have been sent information requests or notice letters have asserted that other companies are the proper successor. Those companies are noted with an asterisk or parenthetical references to the unaffiliated predecessor have been removed. If EPA determines that a party has been incorrectly issued a notice of potential liability, EPA will issue a retraction letter.

List of Notice of Potential Liability and Information request letters recipients:

1. Beazer East, Inc. (Beazer Materials & Services, Inc., Koppers Company, Inc.) - answered in March 2010
2. National Grid USA (Brooklyn Union Gas Co., Metropolitan Gas Light Co., Citizen's Gas Light Co., Fulton Municipal Gas Co.) - answered in April 2010; supplemented in October 2011
3. Consolidated Edison Company Of New York, Inc. - answered in November 2009
4. Chemtura Corp. (Argus Chemical Co., Witco Chemical Co., Crompton Corp.) - answered in October 2009, supplemented in September 2010; \$3.9 million EPA judicial bankruptcy settlement approved in December 2010
5. New York City - initial answer submitted in March 2010, supplemented in December 2010, January 2012 and November 2012; additional supplement pending; supplemental information request issued in September 2012, partial response submitted in November

2012, further response pending

6. U.S. Navy - answered in March 2010
7. Cibro Petroleum Products, Inc.(Cirillo Brothers, Inc./Cibro Petroleum/Brooklyn, Inc.) - answered in March 2010; company defunct
8. Amerada Hess Corp. (Patchogue Oil, Spentonbush and Ira Bushey and Sons) - answered in October 2009, supplemented in April 2010, supplemented in November 2011
9. Honeywell International Inc. (Barrett Manufacturing Co., Warren Chemical and Manufacturing Co. Dept. of Barrett Manufacturing Co. and Allied Chemical and Dye Corp.) - answered in October 2009
10. Kraft Foods Global, Inc. (New York Tartar Co., Standard Brands and Nabisco) - answered in September 2010
11. Stauffer Management Company, LLC - answered in March 2010, supplemented in October 2010 and August 2011
12. Daniel Tinneney (Vidan Auto Salvage, Tinneney President Street LLC) - answered April 2011
13. H.J. Baker & Bro., Inc.* (and Forrester Fertilizer Co.) - issued in March 2011, answered in September 2011, supplemented in December 2011
14. MCIZ Corp., Fifteen Second Avenue LLC, 36-2nd-J Corp., and 107 Sixth Street LLC- answered in December 2011
15. Brink's Inc. (Greason Son & Dazell, Inc.*; The Pittston Co., Metropolitan Petroleum Corp.) - answered in March 2010, supplemented in March 2012
16. Rapid American Corp.* - answered in March 2010
17. Bayside Fuel Oil Corp. - answered in October 2009
18. ConocoPhillips Co. (American Agricultural Chemical Co., Continental Oil Co., and Conoco Inc.) - answered in February 2010, supplemented in May 2012 and July 2012
19. ExxonMobil Oil Corp. (Standard Oil Co. of New York) - answered in September 2009, supplemented in June 2010
20. Citigroup, Inc./MRC Holdings, Inc. (American Can Co., Primerica Corp., Travelers Group, Inc.) - answered in June 2010, supplemented in March 2012

21. NL Industries, Inc. (National Lead Co., Doehler Jarvis Co., Doehler Die Casting Co.) - answered in December 2009, supplemented in January 2011
22. Patterson Fuel Oil Company, Inc. (Scranton and Lehigh Coal Co.) - answered in October 2009
23. The Union Oil Company of California, aka Unocal, a subsidiary of Chevron Corp. (Pure Oil Co.) - answered in September 2009
24. Verizon New York Inc. (NYNEX Corp. and New York Telephone Co.) - answered in March 2011, supplemented in June 2012
25. SPX Corporation (O-Z/Gedney Co., Inc.) - answered May 2011, supplemented in May 2011
26. U.S. Postal Service - answered in September 2011
27. U.S. General Services Administration (as former owner of the above U.S. Postal Service 2nd Avenue Detached Mail Unit and Vehicle Maintenance facilities)
28. Dun and Bradstreet Corp. (R.G. Dun & Co.) - answered in June 2011
29. Cooper Standard Automotive, Inc. (Standard Products Corp.) - answered in May 2011, supplemented in June 2011
30. Rexam Beverage Can Co. (Metal Package Corp.) - answered in September 2011
31. NIC Holding Corporation (Northville Industries Corp., Premium Corp. and Premium Coal & Oil Co.) - answered in May 2011
32. Hauck Manufacturing Co. - answered in September 2011
33. CBS Corp. (Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. and Krantz Manufacturing Co.) - answered in October 2011, supplemented in April 2012
34. Beam Inc. (Fortune Brands, Inc. American Machine and Foundry Co., American Tobacco Co.) - answered in February 2012
35. TDA Industries, Inc. (Acqueron, Inc. and Northeastern Plastics, Inc.) - answered in May 2012
36. Northeastern Plastics, Inc. (NPI Plastics, Inc.) - answered in September 2011
37. U.S. Maritime Administration - issued in January 2013, response pending

Information request letter-only recipients:

1. AkzoNobel (International Salt Co., Inc.)- answered in October 2010; supplemented in March 2011
2. BP America, Inc. - answered in December 2009
3. Seagrave Coatings Corp. - answered in August 2009
4. E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and Co. - answered in August 2009
5. Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. - answered in September 2009
6. Unilever USA, Inc. (American Cotton Oil Company) - answered in October 2009, supplement pending
7. Fuqua Enterprises, Inc. - answered in November 2009
8. Algrun Metals & Minerals Corp. (American Nickel Alloy Manufacturing Co.) - apparently defunct
9. Universal Fixture Corp. - apparently defunct following bankruptcy
10. United Capital Corp. (Kentile Floors Inc., Metex Manufacturing Corp.) - answered in November 2009, supplemented June 2011
11. Viacom, Inc. - answered in December 2010
12. Castle Oil Corp. - answered in December 2010
13. O-Z Gedney Co., LLC - answered in February 2011
14. Sanitation Repairs, Inc. - answered in January 2011
15. Petroleum Tank Cleaners Ltd. (Tanks To U, Inc.) - answered in March 2011
16. Genmar Holdings, Inc. (American Machine Foundry Co., AMF, Inc. and Minstar, Inc.) - issued in March 2011, company in bankruptcy
17. INX International Ink Company (J.P. Carlson, Inc. Chromadyne Corp., Roberts & Carlson, Inc., Midland Color Co.) - answered in April 2011
18. Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. (Brooklyn Union Coal Co.) - issued in March 2011, may be defunct

19. Nelson Brothers Fuel Corp. (Nelson Brothers Fuel Co.) - issued in March 2011, appears to be defunct
20. PLC Enterprises, Inc. (Seagrave Corporation, Debevoise Co., Cheesman-Elliot Co.) - answered in March 2012, supplemented in August 2012, September 2012 and October 2012
21. Sears Holdings Corp. - answered in December 2011
22. Truetech, Inc. - answered in March 2011
23. United Receptacle, Inc. - answered in June 2011
24. William H. Jackson Co., Inc. - answered in June 2011
25. United States Steel Corp.- answered in July 2011
26. Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. (Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of NY, Inc.) - answered in May 2011
27. J.H. Williams Tool Group (J.H. Williams & Co.) - answered in May 2011, supplemented in July 2011
28. New York Daily News - answered in August 2011
29. Central Coal Co., Inc. (Greason, Son & Dalzell, Inc.) - issued in March 2011, company apparently defunct
30. Westinghouse Electric Co. LLC - answered in June 2011, supplemented in July 2011
31. Resina West, Inc. - answered in October 2011
32. Sensient Technologies Corp. (H. Kohnstamm and Co., Inc.) - answered in December 2011
33. Zophar Mills, Inc. - answered in August 2011
34. 6th Street Iron and Metal - answered in October 2011, supplemented in March 2012
35. Benson Metal Corp. - answered in January 2012
36. Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. - answered in September 2011
37. T.E. Conklin Brass and Copper Corp. - answered in September 2011

38. McNally International Corp. (McNally Trucking Corp., McNally Bros, Inc.) - answered in March 2012
39. Ryder System, Inc. (Ryder Truck Rental, Inc.) - answered in December 2011
40. Advance Paper Recycling Corp. - answered in December 2011
41. PepsiCo, Inc. - answered in September 2011, supplemented in October 2011
42. O. C. Adhesives Corp. (Adhesion Systems, Inc.) - answered in July 2012
43. Ulano Corp. (Diagravure Film Corp.) - answered in August 2012
44. Motorola Solutions (Motorola Holding Co., Inc.) - answered in February 2012
45. Regency Service Carts, Inc. - issued in December 2011, response pending
46. Electric Switchboard Solutions LLC - answered in January 2012
47. Superseal Manufacturing Co., Inc. - answered in March 2012
48. Mercury Plastics Corp. (George Wright & Sons Machine Corp.) - answered in November 2012
49. Tribune Media Services (New York Daily News) - answered in March 2012
50. ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corp. - answered in January 2012
51. FM Circuits Corp. - answered in January 2012
52. Bouchard Transportation Co., Inc. - answered in August 2012
53. Ports America, Inc. (International Terminal Operating Corp.) - issued in October 2012, response pending
54. Vigor Shipyards, Inc. (Todd Shipyard Corp.) - issued in October 2012, response pending
55. Brooklyn Improvement Co. - issued in October 2012, response pending
56. Quality Woodworking Corp. - issued in October 2012, response pending
57. Electrolux North America (White Consolidated Industries, Inc., Hupp Corp., Typhoon Air Conditioning Co.) - issued in October 2012, response pending

58. The Jewish Press, Inc. - issued in October 2012, response pending
59. Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (Charles M. Higgins & Co., Higgins Ink Co., Inc., Sanford, LP) and (Terminal Metal Products Corp., Kirsch Company) - issued in October 2012, response pending
60. D. Maldari & Sons, Inc. - issued in October 2012, response pending
61. New York Packaging Corp. - responded in October 2012
62. Arnessen Supply Corp. (Arnessen Electric Co., Inc.) - issued in October 2012, company apparently defunct
63. Spectex Industries, Inc. (J.A. Knitting Mills, Allstate Knitting Mills) - issued in October 2012, response pending
64. PPG, Inc. (Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.) - issued in January 2013, response pending
65. Abigail Press, Inc. - issued in January 2013, response pending
66. Fine Art Lamps, Ltd. (Blumberg Industries, Inc.) - issued in January 2013, response pending
67. Cameo Metal Products, Inc. - issued in January 2013, response pending
68. Curtis Blue Printing Corp. - issued in January 2013, response pending
69. Valspar Corp. (Conchemco Inc., H.B. Davis and Co., John W. Masury and Son, Inc.) - issued in January 2013, response pending
70. Time Warner Inc. (Knickerbocker Toy, Inc.) - issued in January 2013, response pending
71. Henry Repeating Arms Co., Inc. - issued in January 2013, response pending
72. Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of New York, Inc. - issued in January 2013, response pending
73. Philips Electronics North America Corp. (Amperex Electronic Corp.) - issued in January 2013, response pending