

Revere Chemical Superfund Site Nockamixon Township, PA



Redevelopment Success Story *A polluted chemical site becomes public open space*



Aerial View 1970

The Challenge

The Revere Chemical plant was located in rural Bucks County, Pennsylvania on a 113-acre tract of land along a tributary to Rapp Creek. From 1963 to 1969, the plant processed metal plating wastes and stored these wastes in unlined lagoons on the property. A U.S. District Court ordered the plant to close in 1969. The company abandoned hundreds of drums of chemicals and the waste-filled lagoons. In 1970, the Pennsylvania Department of Health removed the wastes from the lagoons. But the chemicals had already fouled the soil, the surface water and sediments in the creek, and the groundwater.

The Solution

EPA became involved with the Revere site in 1984, removing drums of waste and excavating truckloads of sludge. By 1991,

EPA ordered a group of companies that were responsible for the contamination to finish the cleanup. The group, known as the Revere Steering Committee (see box) spent \$6.4 million to complete the cleanup, which included additional drum removal, soil erosion control, solid waste and debris removal, extraction of contaminated soil, and finally, a cap to cover the remaining contaminated soil. The committee expects to spend an estimated \$2 million for 30 years of maintenance at the site. Grasses were planted on top of



the cap. The site has returned to its pre-plant conditions, providing natural habitat to birds and wildlife.

After Cleanup 1998
After Cleanup 1998

Revere Steering Committee

- 1) AT&T (currently Lucent Technologies)
- 2) AT&T Global Information Solutions (currently NCR)
- 3) Carpenter Technology Corp.
- 4) General Electric
- 5) GTE Operations Support (successor to GTE Products)
- 6) IBM Corp.
- 7) Square D (on behalf of Yates Industries)
- 8) Unisys Corporation

The Benefit

After scarring the landscape for dozens of years, the Revere Chemical Superfund site now has potential to serve the public good with recreational open space. The Revere Steering Committee donated \$95,211 to Nockamixon Township to buy back the now nearly pristine property. The deed was turned over to the township in October 2003 with the agreement that the property cannot be used for residential, industrial, institutional or commercial purpose.

Nockamixon Township officials are planning to transform the property into an open recreation area with walking trails, lighting and benches.

For More Information

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