

The Sherwin-Williams Company (Sherwin-Williams) is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and remediate environmental conditions associated with past industrial operations at the former paint manufacturing plant in Gibbsboro, New Jersey. Activities at the Sherwin-Williams/Hilliards Creek Site, the Route 561 Dump Site and the United States Avenue Burn Site (the Sites) have been divided into six units to help facilitate the remedy decision and remedial action process. This update provides information regarding progress on each unit.

### **COVID-19 Update**

The Sherwin-Williams project team continues to take extra precautions related to COVID-19, such as additional hand washing stations, maximizing distancing whenever possible and wearing of face coverings when distancing is not practical. The field office is currently closed to visitors. The technical staff continues to work on remediation designs and other tasks remotely and is working diligently to keep the project moving forward.

#### **Residential Properties Remediation**

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Residential Properties adjacent to the Sites on September 30, 2015 and remediation activities began in 2016.

Remediation and restoration activities on 30 residential properties are complete.

In addition, Sherwin-Williams has completed remediation on two residential properties located along Hilliards Creek in Gibbsboro. Restoration of these two properties, and a portion of Hilliards Creek, is nearly complete. Work is expected to be completed this spring.

Sherwin-Williams continues to perform remediation and restoration activities on residential properties along Kirkwood Lake in Voorhees. Remediation work on residential properties along Kirkwood Lake will continue through 2021.

#### **Route 561 Dump Site**

On September 26, 2016, EPA released its remedy decision for the remediation of the Route 561 Dump Site in Gibbsboro. On March 31, 2017, Sherwin-Williams received legal authorization from EPA to move forward with both the remedial design and remedial action.

Remediation and restoration activities are complete on commercial and open space properties along Route 561 in Gibbsboro. Remediation of areas along White Sand Branch between Route 561 and Berlin Road is underway. Activities along White Sand Branch will continue through 2021. All work under the Dump Site unit should be completed this year.

#### **The United States Avenue Burn Site**

On September 29, 2017, EPA issued a ROD for the remediation of the United States Avenue Burn Site (Burn Site) in Gibbsboro. On April 16, 2019, the Consent Decree between EPA and Sherwin-Williams was finalized, authorizing Sherwin-Williams to proceed with the remedial design and remedial action.

Sherwin-Williams has completed the pre-design investigation at the Burn Site and associated properties, and is moving forward with preparation of the remedial design documents.

Areas within the Burn Site are being used for the short-term staging of equipment and soils during the remediation of the Route 561 Dump Site and White Sand Branch. These areas will later be remediated under the Burn Site unit.

#### **Former Manufacturing Plant (FMP) Soils**

On August 10, 2020, EPA issued a ROD to address contaminated soils at the FMP, as well as sediments in a portion of Hilliards Creek adjacent to the FMP.

The Sherwin-Williams team has initiated planning efforts for the pre-design investigation phase which is required to prepare the engineering, design and construction documents. Pre-design investigation activities will begin once a modification to the existing Consent Decree is finalized and Sherwin-Williams has legal authorization to perform the work. The public comment period on the Consent Decree modification closed on March 1, 2021 and a motion to enter the Consent Decree modification was filed in federal court on March 11, 2021.

In order to facilitate remediation work at and adjacent to the FMP, Sherwin-Williams will extend a segment of the sanitary sewer line to certain residential properties located on United States Avenue in Gibbsboro. Design of the sewer line extension is underway.

#### **Waterbodies including Hilliards Creek**

Environmental investigations and risk assessments related to Hilliards Creek and the associated lakes are complete. Sherwin-Williams submitted a final Feasibility Study (FS) to EPA which evaluates the remediation alternatives for Hilliards Creek and its floodplain, as well as Silver Lake, Bridgewood Lake and Kirkwood Lake. The FS was thoroughly reviewed by EPA Region 2, the EPA Remedy Review Board, and EPA Headquarters and was approved on February 23, 2021.

EPA is expected to release a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the Waterbodies Unit in the next month or so. EPA will host a virtual public meeting to explain the proposed plan and obtain input from the community.

Once EPA releases the PRAP, Sherwin-Williams will post a copy of the document and information on EPA's virtual public meeting on the project website at [www.SWHilliardsCreek.com](http://www.SWHilliardsCreek.com).

Sherwin-Williams continues to work cooperatively with Camden County which is pursuing options for accelerating the dredging of Kirkwood Lake.

#### **Former Manufacturing Plant Groundwater**

Sherwin-Williams is working with EPA to finalize the Remedial Investigation of the Groundwater unit. Once the Remedial Investigation Report is finalized and approved, Sherwin-Williams will proceed with the Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives for addressing groundwater contamination at the FMP.

### **Remediation Construction Updates**

Construction updates are posted to the Sherwin-Williams project website on a weekly basis.

[www.swhilliardscreek.com](http://www.swhilliardscreek.com)