



A Brief History



The Raymark Facility on East Main Street in Stratford, Connecticut operated from 1919 to 1989. Formerly known as Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., the company manufactured gaskets, clutches, and heavy brake friction components for the automotive industry.

Raymark generated wastes containing asbestos, lead, copper and a variety of solvents, adhesives, and resins as byproducts of its manufacturing operations. These wastes were routinely used as fill at the Raymark Facility and at other locations within Stratford.

In 1993, responding to a petition from the Stratford Health Department and the town manager, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued a health advisory for the Raymark Facility and locations around the Town of Stratford where Raymark waste had been deposited. In response, the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

(CTDEP) sampled numerous properties throughout Stratford. EPA proposed listing the Raymark Site on the National Priorities List, commonly known as the Superfund List. Raymark officially became a Superfund Site in 1995, allowing federal monies to be spent on investigation and cleanup. All places where Raymark waste has been identified are part of the Raymark Superfund Site, which is composed of many locations.

The major contaminants of concern in Raymark waste are lead, asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxins. With the exception of dioxin, these contaminants have been found in soils at all areas where Raymark waste was deposited that were investigated by the EPA. In the first phase of cleanup, 30,000 cubic feet of soil from

Wooster Middle School was excavated and deposited at the Raymark Facility in 1995. In addition, in 1996, soil from 46 residential properties was excavated and consolidated at the Raymark Facility. In the second phase of cleanup, 15 acres of buildings were demolished, and over 100,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste

were consolidated. The placement of an impermeable 36-acre cap over the entire property was completed in 1997. Chemicals in underlying groundwater and gases collected from underneath the cap are treated at facilities located on the property.

The Raymark wastes mentioned above have also been found in sediments and surface waters, particularly along Ferry Creek and Shore Road. These areas are being evaluated in order to determine the next course of action.

Additional contaminants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as vinyl chloride, 1,1-dichloroethylene (DCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), have been detected in the ground and surface water at Raymark and surrounding areas. Since residents in the area of concern use public water from reservoirs and do not drink water from the ground, they are not exposed to contaminants in this way. However, these contaminants in groundwater form gases that can enter homes. After testing multiple homes and finding some evidence of VOC entry, EPA approved a plan to install sub-slab ventilation systems in all homes where groundwater contamination may be an issue down gradient (the direction that groundwater flows) of the former Raymark facility. This was a preventative measure to ensure that gases would not enter homes. The installation of these systems was completed in 2004. CTDEP plans on continuing to monitor the groundwater in the area to determine if the impacted area has remained steady.

In August 2005, EPA issued a Remedial Investigation (RI) Report summarizing the findings of sampling at Short Beach Park and the Stratford Landfill. The results indicate that recreational visitors to the park do not currently face health risks due to exposure to Raymark waste, although a permanent remedy will eventually need to be put into place in this area.

EPA has completed its investigations of areas containing Raymark waste. EPA worked the Raymark Advisory Committee (RAC), Stratford officials and the CTDEP to develop a Feasibility Study (FS) for the remaining commercial, municipal properties (referred to as Operable Unit 6 or OU6). The OU6 FS is a comprehensive multi-phased plan for cleaning up the various locations where Raymark waste has yet to be addressed. EPA released the FS and accepted public comments.

As part of that process, EPA met with the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) in December 2007 to evaluate EPA Region 1's potential cleanup options. The NRRB is a technical and policy review group made up of EPA staff members that have experience in the Superfund remedy selection process. Its members include senior managers and technical experts from each of the ten EPA regions across the country. Senior technical and policy experts from other EPA offices also serve as members of the NRRB.

The NRRB reviews proposed high cost cleanup decisions (those over \$25 million) to help evaluate whether they are consistent with current law, regulations and EPA policy and guidance. The intent of the Board is to offer critical discussion on key remedy selection and cost effectiveness issues before EPA finalizes its position on a preferred cleanup strategy. Once the NRRB makes their recommendations, EPA Region 1 then makes its preferred remedy known to the public.

The next step will be for EPA to propose the preferred remedy for the OU6 properties. They are required to host a series of public meetings to publicize their cleanup strategy. A 30 to 90-day comment period will follow allowing Town of Stratford officials, residents and business owners to comment on EPA's proposed plan.