

Crawford Station Remediation

August 2019 Factsheet



Background

From 1924 to 2012, Crawford Power Generating Station was a coal-fired powerplant powering the City of Chicago. In 1999, Midwest Generation acquired Crawford and the nearby Fisk coal-fired powerplant, and at their peak, the two stations produced power for nearly one million homes. In 2012, decommissioning of Crawford began. Decommissioning activities included removal of coal and coal ash, removal of hazardous substances, emptying and cleaning chemical and oil storage tanks, and draining, cleaning, and removal of select transformers. Decommissioning ended in 2013.

The site has been dormant since Midwest Generation filed for bankruptcy in December of 2012. In 2014, NRG Energy purchased the site. In December of 2017, Hilco Redevelopment Partners purchased the site and they remain the owners of the site today.

Remediation

The site was enrolled in the Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program (SRP) in July 2018 with the intent of receiving a Comprehensive No Further Remediation (NFR) letter. In a Comprehensive Site Investigation Report/Remedial Objectives Report/Remedial Action Plan submitted to the IEPA by V3 Companies, multiple Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) were identified and remedial actions were proposed:

- Site Wide PNAs and metals: A limited number of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PNAs) as well as arsenic, lead, and mercury are present on-site in excess of Illinois Tier 1 Industrial/Commercial remedial objectives. Proposed remediation includes the construction of engineered barriers, a Construction Worker Caution, and a groundwater ordinance.
- On the North section of the site, one sample in the West Branch contained an elevated level of lead. This will be addressed by removal/stabilization of the contaminated soil.
- On the South section of the site, one sample collected by the power house had an elevated total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) concentration. This will be addressed by removal of the contaminated soil.
- Near the generating plant and the transmission building/reactor, exceedances of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found. These will be addressed by removal of the contaminated soil.

Additional sampling of areas outside and beneath the proposed engineered barriers will be ongoing. Forthcoming reports will be submitted to the Illinois EPA to further evaluate the scope of remedial actions at the site.

Timeline of Documents

- **July 2, 2018:** Illinois EPA receives *Site Remediation Program Application and Services Agreement (DRM-1) Form* for enrollment into SRP.
- **July 10, 2018:** Illinois EPA confirms enrollment of site in SRP.
- **August 14, 2018:** Illinois EPA receives *Comprehensive Site Investigation Report (CSIR)*
- **October 22, 2018:** Illinois EPA issues comments on and disapproves the *(CSIR)*.
- **January 23, 2019:** Illinois EPA receives *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Response to IEPA Comments on CSIR* documents.
- **February 21, 2019:** Illinois EPA receives *2019 Arsenic Evaluation for Review*.
- **March 5, 2019:** Illinois EPA conditionally approves and issues comments on *2019 Arsenic Evaluation for Review*.
- **March 15, 2019:** Illinois EPA issues comments on and conditionally approves *2019 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Response to IEPA Comments on CSIR*.
- **April 10, 2019:** Illinois EPA receives *Supplement to Comprehensive Site Investigation Report, Remediation Objectives Report & Remedial Action Plan*
- **June 13, 2019:** Illinois EPA issues comments and disapproves *Supplement to Comprehensive Site Investigation Report, Remediation Objectives Report & Remedial Action Plan (SSIR/ROR/RAP)*.
- **June 25, 2019:** Illinois EPA receives *Response to IEPA Comments on SSIR/ROR/RAP*.
- **July 3, 2019:** Illinois EPA issues comments and conditionally approves of *Response to IEPA Comments on SSIR/ROR/RAP*.

For more information on the IEPA Site Remediation Program:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/cleanup-programs/srp/Pages/overview.aspx>

For more information on IEPA's method for developing remediation objectives for contaminated soil and groundwater, also known as Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives (TACO): <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/cleanup-programs/taco/fact-sheets/Pages/default.aspx>