

### **Rahway Arch Properties Site Remediation Project**

The Rahway Arch Properties site is a 124.7 acre property formerly owned by Cytec Incorporated, successor to American Cyanamid Corporation. The site was used by American Cyanamid from the 1930s through the 1970s to dispose of approximately 2,000,000 tons of alum and yellow prussiate of soda (alum-YPS) sludge in six sludge lagoons, covering approximately 85 acres. The sludge and undocumented fill that has been placed on this site during the operation and maintenance are contaminated with cyanide, metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Investigations have shown PAH contamination up to 300 times the New Jersey Non-residential Direct Contact Remediation Standards.

The site is uncapped and requires remediation to correct numerous environmental and safety concerns. At the present time, 25.5 million gallons of water per year percolate through the contaminated materials and into the groundwater and the adjacent Rahway River. The berms that form the impoundments were constructed in the 1930s and are not stable. A catastrophic berm failure will release the contaminated materials into the adjoining wetlands and the River. The surfaces of the impoundments are unstable and pose a safety hazard to people and wildlife that enter the site. The Department has recognized the need to remediate the site and, following the remedial investigations, issued to Cytec a notice of intent to rescind the NFA/CNS that was granted in 2002.

The current owner, Rahway Arch Properties, LLC, has retained a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP), as required by Department regulations, to design and oversee the site remediation. The LSRP has prepared a Remedial Action Workplan (RAW) that requires:

- ❑ Engineering controls, consisting of an engineered capping system to eliminate direct contact hazards, stabilize the impoundments and berms, control and manage stormwater, eliminate infiltration into the groundwater and River and eliminate the on-site safety hazards
- ❑ Administrative controls, including a deed restriction and remedial action permits

Upon completion of the remediation, the site will have approximately 65 acres of restored habitat, providing fully functional wetland transition areas; and approximately 20 acres of developable property. The remaining 40 acres of uncontaminated wetlands will not be touched by the remediation activities, but will, in fact, be enhanced by the remediation of the contaminated areas on the site.

The remedial action workplan (RAW) has undergone an intensive, nine-month long component review by the Site Remediation Program. The component review was successfully concluded on August 26, 2013. The project is now awaiting final permit approvals from the Department whereupon site remediation can commence.

The cap system will be constructed by Soil Safe Incorporated, using recycled soil manufactured into engineered fill at a dedicated, temporary on-site Class B recycling facility. Prior to placement in the cap, the engineered fill material will be tested and approved by the LSRP that it meets the strict environmental and geotechnical requirements contained in the RAW.

Once the permits have been approved, construction of the engineering controls will require approximately five years to complete. Remediation of this site has the full support of the Borough of Carteret which is looking forward to the conversion of this environmental eyesore to a useable and environmentally friendly property.

For more information, contact Al Free, the site LSRP, at (410) 290-8777.