

# PROPOSED PLAN OF REMEDIAL ACTION

## NEW CASTLE COUNTY RAIL TO TRAIL PROJECT (NEW CASTLE INDUSTRIAL GREENWAY) NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE (DNREC-SIRB ID: DE-1475)



December 2009

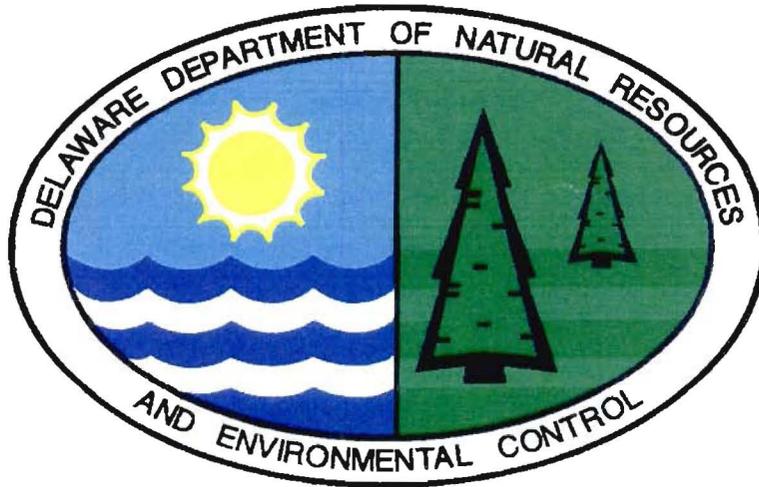
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Site Investigation & Restoration Branch  
391 Lukens Drive  
New Castle, Delaware 19720

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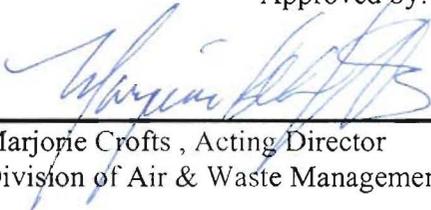
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(NEW CASTLE INDUSTRIAL GREENWAY)  
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE  
(DNREC-SIRB ID: DE-1475)



**Approval:**

This Proposed Plan meets the requirements of the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act.

Approved by:

Marjorie Crofts , Acting Director Division of Air & Waste Management
12.18.09
Date



## **What is the New Castle County (Industrial Greenway) Rail to Trail project?**

The New Castle County Rail to Trail project is located on an approximately 2 mile long former railroad bed and associated right-of-way extending from State Route 273 to Boulden Boulevard in New Castle, Delaware (Figure 1). The right of way is currently underutilized as an abandoned right of way. The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has proposed to redevelop the site for use as a public-access walking / biking trail.

<p><b>Tax Parcel Number:</b> 10-014.00-070 (New Castle County)</p> <p><b>Nearest roadways:</b> Site lies between State Route 273 and Boulden Boulevard</p> <p><b>Area:</b> 21.17 acres (2 mile long, elongated rectangle-shaped parcel)</p> <p><b>Surrounding Land Use:</b> mixed-use area with primarily residential, commercial, and light-industrial properties in the vicinity</p> <p><b>Site Utilities:</b> The Property vicinity is served with public water and sewer utilities by New Castle County. There are no utilities that serve the site.</p> <p><b>Topography:</b> Generally flat to rolling, site is along historically raised right of way through marsh and has been cut into rolling topography</p> <p><b>Groundwater:</b> Columbia aquifer</p>
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## **What happened at the Site?**

Information from reviewed historical documents indicates that railroad tracks were located along the extent of the right-of-way. This historic railroad line connected two other lines from the area of Newport, DE to New Castle, DE. The tracks and ties were removed soon after the cessation of railroad use and the right-of-way exists as a dirt path.

## **What is the environmental problem at the Site?**

The property was the location of a Remedial Investigation (RI) to characterize soil and groundwater quality prior to its redevelopment. The surface soil was found to consist of apparent industrial fill materials generally made up of dark colored fine- to coarse-grained sand, with varying volumes of silt and gravel, and pieces of coal, ash, and slag ranging up to 1.0 foot thick. The laboratory analysis of those materials detected some Contaminants of Concern (COC), including metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at concentrations above residential risk-based levels. Arsenic exceeded the statewide background standard of 11 mg/kg and therefore the risk-based level.

## **What Clean-up Actions were Required by DNREC for the Site?**

DNREC required that the following Cleanup Actions be undertaken at the site:

1. The placement of a paved path in combination with a layer of clean soil borrow material over a marker fabric as a cap to restrict the possibility of future direct contact with the surface soil materials;
2. The placement of an Environmental Covenant consistent with Delaware's Uniform Environmental Covenant Act (UECA) by the owner within 90-days following adoption of the Final Plan of Remedial Action to (1) restrict the future use of the Site to recreational use and (2) prohibit the disturbance of the cap by the performance of land-disturbing activities on the Site without written approval of DNREC-SIRB;
3. A DNREC-approved Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan will be written to detail the inspection of the clean soil cap to insure the protectiveness of the remedy.

## **What are the long term plans for the Site after the cleanup?**

DelDOT is redeveloping the Property as a public-access walking/biking trail. The redevelopment generally consists of removing any debris and constructing an approximately 10-foot wide asphalt paved trail and associated storm-water management, landscaping and other ancillary features. The proposed redevelopment will provide a recreational and aesthetic benefit to the New Castle community. DelDOT and future owners of the property will be responsible for the implementation and associated cost of the DNREC-approved O&M Plan, and the adherence to the requirements and conditions established in the uniform environmental covenant for the site.

DNREC-SIRB plans to issue a Certificate of Completion of Remedy (COCR) for the Site after the completion of cap placement, and the implementation of the uniform environmental covenants at the site.

## **How can I find additional Site information or comment on this Proposed Plan?**

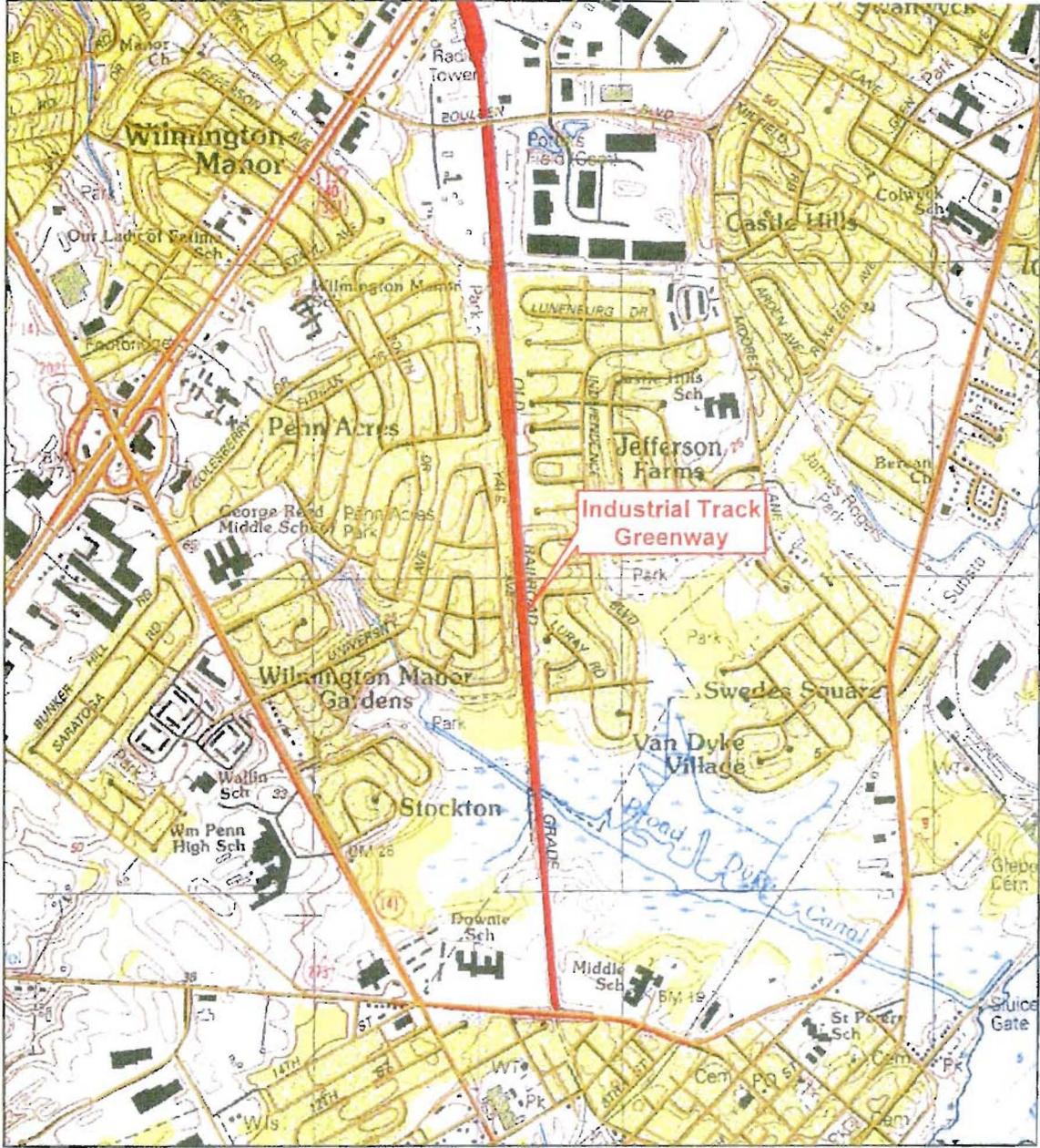
The complete site file containing all investigation data and reports is available for public review at the DNREC office, 391 Lukens Drive in New Castle. Most documents are also found on:

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/SIRB/Pages/SIRBPlans.aspx>

The 20-day public comment period begins on **December 28, 2009** and ends on **January 18, 2010**. Please send written comments to the DNREC office or call Todd Keyser, Project Manager, at: 302-395-2600.

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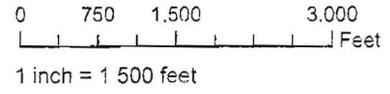
**Figure 1**



Source: Topo data from USGS D.G. Roads from GAOOT



**Figure 1**  
 Site Location Map  
 Industrial Track Greenway Site  
 New Castle, New Castle Co., DE



### **Site Photo**

Abandoned railroad right of way in New Castle, DE



## Glossary of Terms Used in this Proposed Plan

<b>Brownfield</b>	Property that is vacant or underutilized because of the perception or presence of an environmental problem.
<b>Certified Brownfield</b>	A brownfield that DNREC has determined is eligible for partial funding through the Delaware Brownfields Program.
<b>Contaminant of Concern (COC)</b>	These are potentially harmful substances at concentrations above acceptable levels (e.g., metals and PAHs).
<b>Certificate of Completion of Remedy (COCR)</b>	A formal determination by the Secretary of DNREC that remedial activities required by the Final Plan of Remedial Action have been completed.
<b>Direct Contact Exposure</b>	Contact with a substance through inhalation, ingestion, or direct contact with the skin. Exposure may be short term (acute) or long term (chronic).
<b>Final Plan of Remedial Action</b>	DNREC's proposal for cleaning up a hazardous site after it has been reviewed by the public and finalized.
<b>Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act (HSCA)</b>	Delaware Code Title 7, Chapter 91. The law that enables DNREC to identify parties responsible for hazardous substances releases and requires cleanup with oversight of the Department.
<b>PAHs</b>	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat. PAHs are usually found as a mixture containing two or more of these compounds, such as soot. Some PAHs are manufactured. These pure PAHs usually exist as colorless, white, or pale yellow-green solids. PAHs are found in coal tar, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar, but a few are used in medicines or to make dyes, plastics, and pesticides (ATSDR, ToxFAQs for PAHs, 1996)
<b>Proposed Plan of Remedial Action</b>	A plan for cleaning up a hazardous site submitted by DNREC and subject to public comments.
<b>Risk</b>	Likelihood or probability of injury, disease, or death.

## **What is a *Proposed Plan*?**

A Proposed Plan of Remedial Action (Proposed Plan) is a summary of how DNREC intends to clean up a contaminated site. A Final Plan of Remedial Action (Final Plan) is the adoption of the Proposed Plan after DNREC considers all comments made by the public within the comment period of twenty days.

The Delaware State Legislature passed the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act (HSCA) in 1990. The Legislature made sure that members of the public would be informed about environmental problems in their own neighborhoods and have a chance to express their opinions concerning the clean up of those environmental problems before DNREC takes action.

After DNREC studies a site, it summarizes the problems there and proposes one or more possible solutions in a *Proposed Plan*. The *Proposed Plan* contains enough information to allow the general public to understand the site and its problems. More detailed information can be found in the reports and documents approved by DNREC. All of the documents and reports created by DNREC or consultants during the course of the investigation of the site are available to the public at the offices of DNREC-SIRB or at DNREC's website:

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/Divisions/AWM/sirb/sitefiles.asp>

DNREC issues the Proposed Plan by advertising it in at least one newspaper in the county where the site is located. The legal notices for the Proposed Plans and the Final Plans usually run on Wednesdays or Sundays in the legal classified section of the News Journal and/or the Delaware State News. The public comment period begins on the day (Wednesday), or the day after (Sunday) the newspaper publishes the legal notice for the Proposed Plan.

DNREC frequently holds public meetings during the comment period. Those meetings are usually held near the site in the evening. Citizens can request a public meeting if DNREC did not already schedule one.

DNREC collects comments at the public meetings, by phone or in writing. DNREC considers all comments and questions from the public before it makes the Proposed Plan final.

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