Upcoming Site Work at the Former Exide Technologies Facility in Frankfort, Indiana

https://www.exidefrankfortclosure.com/

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Exide Bankruptcy and Establishment of the Exide Environmental Response Trust

The former Exide Technologies facility located at 555 North Hoke Avenue in Frankfort, Indiana operated from 1963 (and possibly earlier) to 1997 as a lead-acid battery manufacturing and distribution facility. Other manufacturing operations may have occurred onsite dating back to the early 1900's.

Exide Holdings, Inc. filed for Chapter 11 debt relief in May 2020. In Bankruptcy filings, the Frankfort facility was designated as a non-performing property. The Exide Environmental Response Trust was created by an Environmental Trust Agreement within the framework of the Bankruptcy and is not affiliated with the former Exide company or its former officers.

As part of the Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement entered by the Bankruptcy Court, ownership of the former Exide facility was transferred to the Trust. The Trust is responsible for paying the property taxes and performing all activities at the Site necessary to maintain compliance with applicable environmental permits and rules.

The Trust will fund remedial activities at the Site until the property is sold, at which point the new owner will take over the remedial activities, or until the Trust Fund is depleted.

Exide Environmental Response Trust

The Exide Environmental Response Trust was created following Exide's Bankruptcy and became effective on October 26, 2020. The Trust is not affiliated with Exide Technologies. The Trust is a bankruptcy court appointed entity that manages the funds set aside during the Bankruptcy to address environmental operations and remediation at numerous former Exide facilities throughout the United States. Each facility has been assigned a portion of the Trust funds to address contamination created by Exide Technologies as a result of their operations.

The EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) are beneficiaries of the Exide Trust for the Frankfort facility and EPA is the Lead Agency for the Site.

Facts about Environmental Conditions at the Former Exide Technologies Facility and Upcoming Site Work

Image: 1 An aerial image of the former Exide Technologies Facility site, Pre-Demolition, Circa 2012.

Image: 2 A recent aerial image of the former Exide Technologies Facility site, Post-Demolition.

- The Site used to be used for lead acid battery manufacturing operations. Battery manufacturing operations ended in 1997. Exide then used the Site for equipment and document storage until the demolition of the building in January 2013. The Site is currently vacant.

- To help protect people from entering the Site, the area is made inaccessible with a perimeter security fence and locked gates. The Site is also monitored by the Trust's contractor.

- The Site encompasses approximately 13.7 acres. Approximately 12.1 acres are enclosed by a perimeter security fence and the majority of this area consists of intact asphalt pavement and remnant concrete floor slabs from the former buildings. The remainder of the Site is an open grassy area outside of the fence on the north side of the Site.
- Stormwater from the paved surfaces is collected by a combination of on-site and off-site stormwater inlets that convey water to an unnamed tributary of the Prairie Creek located approximately 300-feet north of the Site. In 2019, Exide installed and has maintained filter fabric in on-site stormwater inlets, as well as silt sock along portions of the Site perimeter to limit sediment transport off-site.
- Unconsolidated groundwater in the region (Tipton Complex Aquifer) is typically encountered at a depth of 200 – 400 feet below ground surface (bgs). There is impacted water observed in the on- and off-site monitoring well network at a depth of approximately 10-feet bgs. However, the Site is not located within an area supplying a public water system.
- Since the demolition project concluded in January 2013, Exide took various steps to address remaining environmental concerns at the Site. This included:
    - Removal of underground storage tanks (USTs) associated with heating oil and fuel;

  - Remediation of soils associated with historic UST releases;
  - On-site investigations associated with Site contaminants of concern (COCs) utilizing on-site soil borings, perimeter surface soil sampling, camera inspection of on-site stormwater piping, sampling of on-site manholes and stormwater piping, installation of on and off-site monitoring wells.

- The primary COCs for the Site related to battery manufacturing are lead and arsenic. These inorganic COCs have been detected in shallow soil samples collected on-site. However, in locations that exceed IDEM industrial standards, the soil is covered by pavement. The Trust and EPA are evaluating whether removal of soils affected by lead and/or arsenic is necessary as these COCs do not have a clear direct exposure pathway for the public.
- During UST removal, chlorinated solvents, such as Trichloroethene (TCE), and related compounds associated with the degradation of TCE were encountered. During Exide's Site Investigation, these compounds and others related to petroleum-based fuels were encountered in groundwater samples collected near Kelley Avenue.
- Through 2021 and 2022, the Trust performed additional investigation work that focused on addressing this location. This work included collection of groundwater samples, collection of sewer gas samples, and performance of a biological study in select wells in preparation of groundwater injection activities. The reports documenting these activities are available on the Site's webpage.
- Around late September or early October 2023, the Trust, will implement an EPA-approved work plan to conduct field activities on and adjacent to the Site. The work plan is available for review at the Site's webpage. The anticipated work includes collecting groundwater, surface water, soil, and soil vapor samples to assess the presence and/or movement of contaminated impacted media (soil, groundwater, surface runoff) in the surrounding areas. A camera will be used to investigate the sewer system in the area of the Site. In addition, some limited excavation and off-site disposal of TCE contaminated soil, backfilling, and re-pavement of the Site inside the fence line near Kelley Avenue will take place. Additional activities will take place to inject a bioremediation substrate into the Site groundwater to further remediate the residual groundwater impacts. Groundwater monitoring will take place following the injection activities.
- Most of the work will occur over a period of several weeks. Residents and neighbors may see some of the following activities:
  - Pickup trucks, tri-axle trucks, excavators, temporary water tanks, and drill rigs on-site and off-site (mostly along the Kelley Avenue right of way)
  - Excavators and loaders excavating soil, loading trucks, and delivering backfill within the fence line
  - Drilling rigs collecting soil and groundwater samples
  - Monitoring well drilling and installation
  - Technicians and laborers performing soil-gas sampling and camera inspection work along off-site utility corridors and stormwater inlets

  - Occasional "construction" noises such as truck and vehicle backup alerts, percussion of drill rigs penetrating paved surfaces and/or rocky soil
  - Occasional lane closures and/or parking restrictions on the adjacent streets to allow for safe work around the perimeter of the Site. Road closures will be coordinated with the City and are expected to be limited to normal business hours.
- The information collected as part of the field activities described above and associated excavation activities are being conducted to remediate the source of the impacted media in the subsurface near Kelley Avenue on-site.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT AND SITE

- EPA
  - Toll Free Regional Information Hotline Number: 800-621-8421
  - Community Involvement Coordinator – Francisco Arcaute: 312-886-7613
- Exide Environmental Response Trust
  - Jacob Collins: 714-227-1718
- Onsite Contractor Representative
  - Montrose (fka Advanced GeoServices) – Jan Dobinsky: 610-840-9116