

Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump Superfund Site

Ashland, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The 35-acre former Nyanza Chemical facility located in Ashland, Massachusetts (the "Site") produced textile dyes from 1917 to 1978, and during that time various chemical wastes (including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals) were disposed of on-site or discharged to the Sudbury River through a series of drainageways. The Site was listed on the National Priority List (NPL) on September 8, 1983. Due to the size and complexity of environmental impacts at the Site, multiple Operable Units ("OUs") were created to allow independent evaluation of distinct portions of the site and/or contaminated areas and media. The 12-acre Nyanza landfill cap was constructed in two phases (under OU1 and OU3). During the OU1 remedial phase completed in 1992, EPA consolidated and isolated wastes under a landfill cap. Additional contaminated sediments were consolidated under the cap in 2001 under the OU3 remedial phase.

SITE UPDATE:

EPA's goal for community involvement is to provide the public with accurate, timely, accessible, and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.

INSTALLATION OF SOLAR ARRAY FACILITIES:

Ashland Solar, LLC submitted a proposal and request for approval to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to utilize portions of the Nyanza Site, including the Nyanza landfill cap, for the generation of photovoltaic (PV) energy on land which is owned by Megunko Transit District, LLC. Ashland Solar, LLC plans to construct and operate a photovoltaic facility that will generate approximately 5.8 megawatts (MW) direct current (DC) by two separate solar arrays. The Solar Array 1 Facility will be constructed on the Nyanza landfill cap, and the Solar Array 2 Facility will be constructed on land located south of the cap near the MBTA Access Road. The Solar Array 1 Facility was subject to review and approval by EPA and MassDEP, and required additional approval by MassDEP as Grantee in a Grant of Environmental Restriction and Easement (GERE). Certain additions (such as utility poles)

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KEY CONTACTS:

LISA THUOT

U.S. EPA
Project Manager
(617) 918-1129
thuot.lisa@epa.gov

ZANETTA PURNELL

U.S. EPA
Community Involvement
Coordinator
(617) 918-1306
purnell.zanetta@epa.gov

DAVID BUCKLEY

MassDEP
(617) 556-1184
david.buckley@mass.gov

GENERAL INFO:

EPA NEW ENGLAND

5 Post Office Sq.,
Boston, MA 02109-3912

TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

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nyanza](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/nyanza)

associated with the Solar Array 2 Facility were also located in GERE-restricted areas of the Site that required MassDEP and EPA approval. The Solar Array 1 Facility will consist of approximately 11,232 modules and racking systems secured to pre-cast concrete ballast block foundations, each approximately 9.5 feet long x 2.25 to 2.92 feet wide, and 1.5 feet in depth. Ballast blocks for the solar modules will be placed directly on the landfill cap surface (referred to as “ballasted ground mount”) prior to the installation of the racks and modules. The information submitted by Ashland Solar, LLC and historical documents from the OU1 and OU3 remedial actions were reviewed by EPA and MassDEP, it was determined that the project will not interfere with the Nyanza OU1 and OU3 remedies and will not increase risks to human health

and the environment. On November 14, 2018, EPA and MassDEP conditionally approved the request by Ashland Solar LLC to construct and operate the Solar Array 1 Facility on portions of the Nyanza Superfund Site (including the landfill).

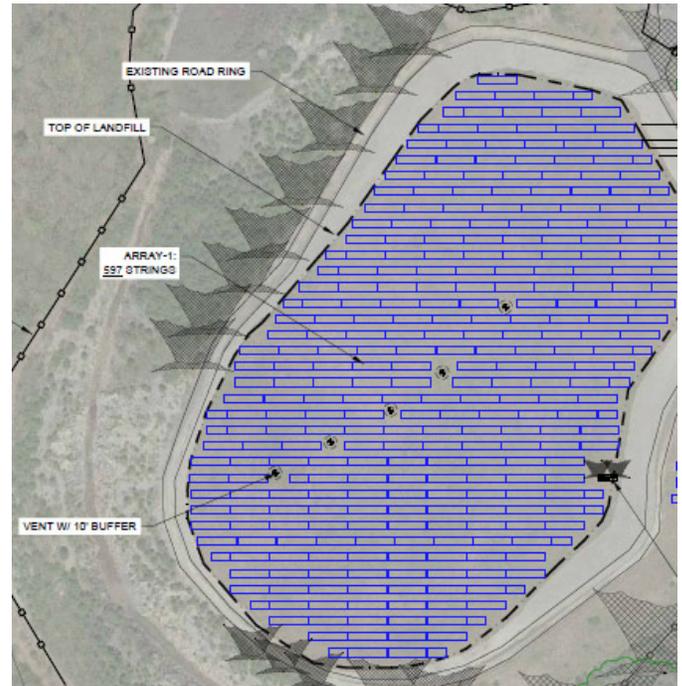
CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOLAR ARRAY FACILITIES:

Solar project teams have started to mobilize at the Site during September 2019 to perform pre-construction preparation activities. During the months of October to December 2019, construction of the Solar Array Facilities will occur. Periodic truck traffic is anticipated on the MBTA Access Road in Ashland to deliver equipment and solar array components for the project. For the construction of Array 1 (on the

landfill cap), trucks and equipment will enter the secured Nyanza landfill through a fence gate and construction entrance located off the MBTA Access Road, near the Cirrus Apartments. For the construction of Array 2 (area located south of the landfill), a new access road will be installed off the MBTA Access Road including a paved apron extending approximately 45 feet into the project area. Tree and vegetation clearing will be performed in the Array 2 area, and stormwater control features installed (such as a swale, diversion berm, and a level spreader) to manage stormwater flow/runoff. If you have any questions or concerns about the solar project, please contact an EPA or MassDEP representative listed.



Aerial view of the Nyanza Superfund Site



Proposed Solar Array 1 on the Nyanza Superfund Site Landfill