

Blades Groundwater Superfund Site

Seaford, Delaware | July 2026



The Blades Groundwater Superfund site is approximately one mile in diameter from the Blades public wells, not extending beyond the Nanticoke River and Morgan Branch. The primary groundwater contaminants of concern are metals associated with electroplating compounds and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This Superfund site has two Operable Units (OUs) with ongoing activities. OU1 deals with treating sitewide contaminants, and OU2 focuses on the upcoming waterline installation for homes using private well water down River Road.

OU1 Overview: Sitewide Contaminants

Recent Activities

November 2025

- EPA completed groundwater, surface water, soil, and sediment sampling as part of the Remedial Investigation. Many members of the community had some form of sampling done on their property.

Upcoming Activities

- EPA is working on the Remedial Investigation report. This report will have details about the nature and extent of site contamination. It is expected to be available on EPA's webpage in **early summer 2027**. See reverse of this fact sheet for the link to the EPA webpage.
- EPA will develop a Feasibility Study with sitewide remedy options after the Remedial Investigation report is complete. The Feasibility Study is expected to be complete in **early 2028**.
- After the Feasibility Study is complete, EPA will develop an OU1 Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will select a sitewide remedy that is protective of human health and the environment. The OU1 Record of Decision is expected to be complete in **early 2029**.
- EPA will implement the selected remedy after completion of the OU1 Record of Decision. The remaining timeline is **to be determined**.

OU2 Overview: Waterline Construction

Recent Activities

February 2024

- EPA selected a remedy for interim action for OU2. The selected remedy protects residents from exposure to groundwater containing unacceptable levels of site-related contamination.

The remedy includes: 1) extending the public water line to residents affected by site-related contaminants, 2) implementing institutional controls to prevent new well installations, and 3) maintaining existing water treatment systems until connection to the public water line is complete. This remedy provides long-term protection for residents until EPA restores groundwater to beneficial use.

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OU2 Overview: Waterline Construction (continued)

Recent Activities

July and August 2025

- The EPA Remedial Project Manager and Community Involvement Coordinator went door-to-door to finalize the list of homes to connect to the waterline. EPA notified all homeowners in the impacted areas of the upcoming waterline installation.

Important: If you were not notified but want to connect to the waterline, please contact Sean Carney or Katie Page. Their contact information is below.

November 2025

- EPA visited each home connecting to the waterline to determine the best location for a lateral connection.

April 2026

- EPA sent the 30% Remedial Design package, a standard design checkpoint, to the Town of Blades and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for review.

June 2026

- EPA conducted a State-required cultural investigation at homes connecting to the waterline.
- EPA intermittently performed a pump test on the Town's three production wells that supply water to the community. Adding homes to the waterline puts more strain on the Town's production wells. EPA performed the pump test to determine if the Town needs a fourth production well. The test also checked for how much water the wells can produce while pumping at a high rate. This test produces a lot of water, so EPA used a large portable storage tank, a "frac tank," to store the water during the test. EPA treated this stored water through portable granular activated carbon (GAC) tanks and discharged it to stormwater infiltration basins. The results of the pump test are pending while expert hydrogeologists look over the data.

Upcoming Activities

- EPA will complete the 60%, 90%, and Final design for the waterline. The final approved design is expected in **spring 2027**.
- Before installation, EPA plans to have a community meeting to explain the project. The date of that meeting is **to be determined**.
- EPA expects to install the waterline during **summer 2027**.

Important: Any future waterline connections will be at the owner's expense if they do not participate in EPA's waterline connection efforts.

EPA Contact Information



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For more information about this Superfund site, please visit the EPA webpage below or scan the QR Code.

www.epa.gov/superfund/BladesGroundwater

