

Fact Sheet

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Benning Road Facility



Constructed Wetland at the Benning Road Facility

Pepco has been conducting an environmental evaluation of the Benning Road facility and adjacent portion of the Anacostia River, known as Remedial investigation/Feasibility Study or RI/FS. We are performing this RI/FS with the oversight of the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE). We have largely completed the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase.

What is the Benning Road Facility?

The Benning Road facility is an important part of our electric power transmission and distribution system, serving the Washington, D.C. area. It is an industrial facility that has operated for over 100 years. The facility is currently home to the Benning Service Center. The Service Center occupies the largest part of the property, and accommodates approximately 700 Pepco employees. Service Center employees work in construction and maintenance of our electric transmission and distribution system, system engineering, vehicle fleet maintenance and refueling and central warehousing for all the materials, supplies and equipment needed to operate our electric transmission and distribution system. The Benning Road facility also used to be the site of an electric generating station. The generating station was shut down in 2012 and was completely demolished by May 2015.

What is the RI/FS?

The purpose of the RI is to: (1) evaluate environmental conditions at the Benning Road facility and the adjacent portion of the Anacostia River; (2) determine if and to what extent historical operations at the facility have contributed to the contamination of the river, and (3) assess potential risks to human health and the environment as a result of these conditions. The purpose of the FS is to develop and evaluate cleanup options to mitigate the identified risks, if needed. The RI/FS activities are conducted in accordance with the Benning Consent Decree, a court-approved agreement between Pepco and DOEE. The preliminary findings of this investigation are presented in a Draft RI report, which was approved by DOEE and released for public review and comment on March 1, 2016. Here are answers to some of the questions you may have about the facility and the Draft RI Report.



Aerial view of the Benning Road facility with Landside and Waterside Investigation Areas.

What was involved in the RI?

The RI work was conducted in accordance with a DOEE-approved RI/FS Work Plan and two addenda to the Work Plan. The RI field activities included extensive investigation of the Benning Road facility and adjacent segment of the river, including the collection of hundreds of samples of soil and groundwater at the facility and surface water and sediments in the river, laboratory testing of the samples, and detailed

evaluation of the sampling results, including assessment of the types and extent of contamination present at the Benning Road facility and in the river in comparison to background sources of contamination such as combined sewer overflows and urban runoff. The RI evaluations completed so far also included a preliminary baseline human health risk assessment (BHHRA) and a preliminary baseline ecological risk assessment (BERA) to assess the risks from exposure to the contamination detected in the environmental media. The results of this work are described in detail in the Draft RI Report. The report also contains tables, figures and charts summarizing the data collected and copies of the laboratory analytical data reports.

What are the preliminary findings of the RI?

While some additional field investigation is necessary to complete the RI phase, the site investigation has so far revealed the following:

- 1) The RI identified some areas of relatively low level contamination consistent with the historical industrial use of the Benning Road facility and other sites along the river and the general urban character of the surrounding area. These conditions do not present any immediate health risk to people who live, work, or spend time in the area.
- 2) Outfalls associated with the Benning Road facility may have historically contributed to PCBs found in the river sediment. However, the facility does not appear to be a significant continuing source of PCB to the river. (PCBs are manmade chemicals used in a variety of industries and products including electric equipment, and banned in the US in 1979).
- 3) The BHHRA identified potentially unacceptable risk from fish consumption due to the presence of PCBs in fish tissue. This is a River-wide phenomenon and not specific to PCBs that originated from the Benning Road facility.
- 4) The BERA identified limited potential risks to benthic macroinvertebrates (i.e., worms) in the river sediment. The BERA also identified risks to the fish community due to PCBs. This is a river-wide phenomenon and not specific to PCBs that originated from the Benning Road facility.



Boat-mounted drilling equipment was used to collect sediment samples from the bottom of the Anacostia River.

Where can I access the Draft RI Report?

The Draft RI Report was made available for public review and comment on DOEE's website on March 1, 2016 and can be accessed at doee.dc.gov/page/pepco-benning-road-facility-plans-and-deliverables. The report is also available on the Benning Service Center website at benning-service-center.com

What are the next steps for the RI/FS project?

Once the additional investigation is completed, we will proceed to finalize the RI Report. Using the results of the RI, we will conduct a Feasibility Study to identify and evaluate potential cleanup options and other actions as necessary to ensure there are no long term risks to human health or the environment as a result of our activities at the Benning Road facility.

We are committed to conducting activities at the Benning Road facility with respect and care for the environment. We are also committed to maintaining an ongoing dialogue with our neighbors. We want to hear their concerns and share with them information about the on-going environmental evaluation of the Benning Road facility and adjacent portion of the Anacostia River.

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