



Raymark Timeline (1919 - 2015)

1919

Raybestos moves from Bridgeport to East Main Street in Stratford.

1929

Raybestos merges with Manhattan Rubber Co., forming the Raybestos-Manhattan Company.

1939

Raybestos-Manhattan consolidates all operations at the Stratford site.

1975

Stratford requests assistance from CTDEP in evaluating several sites suspected of asbestos contamination and identifies 12 areas where it is found.

1978

Town applies cover to some suspected Raymark and/or Tilo waste disposal areas.

1980s

With a \$50,000 grant from the state, the Town of Stratford uses clean fill to cover several asbestos-contaminated sites.

1984

EPA becomes involved with Raymark Facility.

1988

Stratford plant closing announced due to lawsuits related to asbestos litigation; EPA conducts preliminary assessment of 12 suspect asbestos sites.

1989

EPA issues report on findings at 12 sites.

1990

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry does health consult on Raybestos Memorial Ballfield and adjacent residential area.

1991

EPA installs fence around Raymark property to minimize contact with hazardous waste.

1992

EPA orders Raymark to clean/secure site and temporary soil cover is built on Raybestos Memorial Field.

1993

Stratford Health Department and Town Manager petition the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR issues a Health Advisory for the Raymark Facility and locations within the Town where Raymark waste has been deposited. Extensive sampling immediately begins (including townwide testing of all public areas), EPA starts excavating Raymark waste from 46 residential properties, and excavated material is returned to the Raymark facility for storage. Free lead screening is offered to Stratford residents. The CT Department of Public Health completes initial reviews of Stratford cancer rates. Temporary covers are built at Short Beach, Wooster Middle School, and Shore Road. Affected commercial properties also implement temporary measures to reduce potential exposure risks. A volunteer group is formed known as the Stratford Citizens Advisory Council, to provide community input to the investigation and cleanup.

1994

A survey is conducted to locate any private wells near Raymark Facility and other known waste disposal sites. Testing is performed on finfish and shellfish from local water bodies.

1995

ATSDR releases a Public Health Assessment on Raymark. Raymark is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List, also known as the Superfund list; Raymark waste is excavated from Wooster Middle School property and returned to the Raymark Facility, and a permanent cap is placed on the school property. Demolition of buildings on Raymark site begins.

1996

Excavation of residential properties complete; demolition at Raymark facility is completed and cap construction begins.

1997

Construction of cap at the Raymark facility is finished; on-site treatment facilities for gas collection and solvent collection and storage are activated; groundwater investigation begins.

1998

Stratford Birthweight and Cancer Study is released; results indicate no increase in testicular cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the lining around the lungs), or early-onset cancer in people living near properties contaminated with Raymark waste, but bladder cancer was slightly elevated among this group, especially women; low birthweight was not found to be associated with living close to Raymark waste.

1999

Remedial Investigation (RI) is issued for Raybestos Memorial Field and Ferry Creek area.

2000

Excavation, asphalt cover, and construction of clean zone along wetlands & the Housatonic River in the vicinity of Shore Road is completed; EPA begins collecting soil gas and indoor air samples from residences; Raymark Advisory Committee (RAC) is established. In September, EPA's first Five-Year Review Report for the Raymark Industries Site is released.

2001

2nd phase of soil gas and indoor air samples is performed; sub-slab ventilation systems are installed in 4 homes. Construction of Home Depot, Shaw's Supermarket & Wal-Mart begins at former Raymark facility site. Health Consultation Review of Bladder Cancer Data is released by CTDPH concluding that there is no definitive evidence linking female or male bladder cancer with exposure to Raymark waste. The Health Consultation also noted evidence of an increasing trend over time in male bladder cancer in Stratford and recommended follow-up when more years of cancer data are available.

2002

3rd phase of soil gas and indoor air samples is performed; sub-slab ventilation systems are installed in 5 additional homes; groundwater investigation continues with additional monitoring wells around former Raymark facility and near Housatonic River. Stratford Crossings is named and Home Depot, Shaw's Supermarket & Wal-Mart open for business.

2003

Phase 4 of soil gas and indoor air samples is performed; additional groundwater sampling takes place in Housatonic River/Ferry Creek area. Health Consult is released by the CT DPH advising installation of sub-slab ventilation systems in over 100 homes that are potentially impacted by contaminated groundwater. EPA issues an action memo authorizing funding to install systems. Installation of systems begins under supervision of CT DEP.

2004

Installation of residential sub-slab systems is completed. Groundwater (OU-2 ("OU" stands for "Operable Unit")) and Commercial Properties (OU-6) Remedial Investigations are finalized. The RAC continues to meet monthly in evaluating the best way to utilize the remaining special account monies stemming from the sale of the Raymark property to address the remaining contaminated properties. The Raymark Information webpage is launched as part of the Stratford Health Department's website (www.townofstratford.com/health/raymark.stml).

2005

Investigations as to the extent of Raymark waste at Short Beach Park and Stratford Landfill (OU-9) as well as a report on investigations along Shore Road are completed. In August, the OU-9 Remedial Investigation report is issued, indicating that recreational visitors to the park do not currently face health risks from exposure to Raymark waste. These reports are in preparation for evaluating clean-up options that will be presented in forthcoming documents known as feasibility studies. In September, EPA's second Five-Year Review Report for the Raymark Industries Site is released.

2006

Proceeds from the bankruptcy settlement of Raymark Industries and Raytech Corporation are added to the Raymark Special Account and advance cleanup of Raymark Superfund Site.

2007

Health Consultation is released by CTDPH evaluating soils at selected school/daycare properties that were initially investigated by EPA as part of environmental studies of potential locations of Raymark Waste disposal in Stratford. The Health Consultation recommends follow-up actions for several properties.

2008

EPA posts signs in consultation with CTDEEP and property owners to warn citizens of potential short-term exposures to Raymark waste until the locations can be more fully addressed.

2009

EPA samples approximately 300 monitoring wells installed around the former Raymark facility. Soil gas samples are collected at a number of the permanent monitoring stations located within the residential area bounded by Housatonic Avenue and Ferry Boulevard.

2010

In September, EPA releases its third Five-Year Review Report for the Raymark Industries Site. EPA also releases a proposed cleanup plan including final cleanup actions at four OU6 properties and temporary (“interim”) actions for the remaining OU6 properties and other areas in town contaminated with Raymark waste.

2011

Health Consultation Follow-up Review of Bladder Cancer for Stratford, CT is released by CTDPH evaluating an additional 11 years of bladder cancer data (1997-2007) and concluding that over the entire period of follow up (1965-2007) there is no increasing or decreasing trend for bladder cancer in Stratford. EPA issues a Record of Decision which finalizes Source Control Actions at four of the properties within OU6 and Interim Actions for all other locations where potential exposures to Raymark waste could occur.

2013

EPA's Remedial Program requests that EPA's Removal Program evaluate the OU-6 Airport Property Site as a potential Raymark waste removal site due to the impending Sikorsky Airport Improvements Project.

2014

The Sikorsky Airport Improvements Project including multiple construction efforts begins. The goal of the project is to construct a runway safety area. To accommodate the new runway safety area the over-all project will realign approximately 2200 feet of Connecticut Route 113 (Main Street). In doing this construction work, about 14,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste and invasive plant species will be removed. Removal is overseen EPA.

2015

In March, EPA develops a Conceptual Comprehensive Plan for the Site which anticipates issuance of a proposed cleanup plan for public review and comment by the end of 2015 for overall groundwater area (OU2), as well as the former Raybestos Memorial Field (OU4), Upper Ferry Creek (OU3), and approximately 20 properties remaining in OU6. In April, EPA Removal Program completes oversight of the cleanup of Raymark Waste at the Sikorsky Airport. EPA's fourth Five-Year Review Report for the Raymark Industries Site is released.

