

Proposed Treatment Modification

Former Varian Facility Site, 150 Sohier Road, Beverly MA | **May 2025**

Varian is proposing to adjust its original treatment plans along Tozer Road and at 150 Sohier Road. The changes include expanding the treatment scope upgradient at 150 Sohier Road in place of the planned permeable adsorptive/reactive zone at Tozer Road (the Tozer Road barrier).

The proposed modification will be presented at a public meeting on May 8 at 7:00 pm at the Beverly Middle School library, followed by a 20-day comment period. A status update on the other remedial construction activities (including the Building 3 thermal treatment system and the PSL-10 subgrade biogeochemical reactor) will also be presented.

What is the change?

The proposed modified plan essentially moves the barrier closer to the source area, from its previous location along Tozer Road to an upgradient (uphill) location where chemicals enter the fractured bedrock at 150 Sohier Road. The modified approach involves enhancing the treatment by injecting a mixture of additives to slow migration and degrade the contaminants anaerobically in the bedrock fractures at multiple locations and depths.

Why change the treatment approach?

Due to access issues, the previously proposed barrier approach along Tozer Road can no longer be implemented as planned.

The Tozer Road barrier was originally designed as an extra precaution; it was not intended to achieve a permanent solution (site closure). A condition of "no significant risk" to human health already exists. The modified plan will maintain this condition (keep people safe) and lead to a permanent solution.

Implementing treatment closer to the source area is more effective than treatment farther away. This modified approach limits potential migration beneath a larger part of the community downgradient (downhill) of the former Varian facility, and also helps achieve timely completion of the source area treatments.

Why wasn't this approach proposed initially?

New information about the deep overburden and fractured bedrock hydrogeology and connectivity was obtained during the 2024/early 2025 pre-design investigations. This information was not available at the time the Tozer Road barrier was proposed. The new information enables Varian to effectively treat chemicals closer to the source by enhancing upgradient treatment where groundwater enters the fractured bedrock. This approach will result in reduced chemical concentrations along Tozer Road and to the west, and effectively control the migration of chemicals in groundwater downgradient.

The proposed modification includes an expansion of groundwater monitoring which will confirm that the current condition of no significant risk is maintained. The monitoring locations will be selected to provide time to respond if data suggest that downgradient treatment along Tozer Road is warranted.

Will this approach be effective?

Yes. The thermal treatment system and other primary remedies at the 150 Sohier Road property will capture and/or destroy chemicals at the source areas. The proposed enhanced treatment in the overburden and the bedrock near the source areas will decrease chemical concentrations, reduce the migration of chemicals off the property, protect the downgradient community, continue to maintain the condition of no significant risk, and lead to a Permanent Solution for the site.

How Can I Submit Comments?

Varian will consider and respond to comments submitted on the Proposed Phase IV Modification. Public comments can be submitted online at <https://beverlysitecleanup.com/public-involvement/>, by email to raymond.cadorette@jacobs.com, or by mail to: Jacobs Solutions, attn. Raymond Cadorette, 120 St. James Avenue, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116. A copy of the Phase IV Remedy Implementation Plan Modification (public comment draft) is on file and available for review at the Beverly Public Library Reference Desk (32 Essex Street, Beverly MA) and online at the MassDEP website at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/dep/wastesite/viewer/3-0000485> or by scanning the QR code using the camera on a tablet or smartphone.

