

Metaltec/Aerosystems

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD002517472

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 05

Sussex

Franklin Borough

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Metaltec/Aerosystems site is located on a 15 1/2-acre property in a rural residential area. It is the location of a former manufacturing facility that produced a variety of metal products. In 1980, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) began sampling the facility's wastewater lagoon and surrounding soil as part of a site inspection. Results revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals. These contaminants leached from the lagoon into surrounding groundwater, and upon sampling residential wells, the State found VOCs at levels above Federal standards for drinking water. The Franklin Water Supply Well and contaminated private wells were closed in 1980, and affected residents were connected to the Borough's primary water supply. The site lies in a valley drained by a small unnamed stream that flows into Wildcat Brook, a tributary of the Walkill River. Franklin Pond lies 3/4 mile northeast of the site. The now-closed Franklin Water Supply Well, which served as a secondary water supply source, is about 400 feet east of the property. Approximately 4,000 people live within 3 miles of the site. Local surface water is used for recreation, fishing, and swimming.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater is contaminated with various VOCs and heavy metals. Potential health threats exist through the ingestion of contaminated groundwater.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two long-term remedial phases, the first of which focused on source control of site contaminants and the second is addressing groundwater cleanup.

Response Action Status

Source Control: In 1986, EPA selected a remedy for cleaning up the sources of contamination at the site. The remedy featured: (1) excavating and treating 10,000 cubic yards of soils contaminated with VOCs in Parcel 1 and taking them off site for disposal at an EPA-approved landfill; (2) excavating 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils from Parcels 2, 3, and 4 and disposing of them off site at an EPA-approved landfill; (3) providing an alternate water supply for Franklin to replace lost drinking water capacity; and (4) studying the site further to identify the extent of groundwater contamination and to evaluate the best options for cleanup. In 1988, EPA excavated 5,000 cubic yards of soil from Parcels 2, 3, and 4, transported them to an approved landfill and backfilled the excavated areas with clean fill. An alternate water supply pipeline to provide water from two privately developed wells was completed in 1991. Cleanup of contaminated soils from Parcel 1, which was initiated in 1993, has also been completed.

Groundwater: In 1989, EPA completed a study of groundwater contamination at the site. A Record of Decision, signed in 1990, selected a remedy for the site which included extracting the contaminated groundwater and treating it by air stripping to remove the VOCs. Any remaining organic contaminants would be removed by carbon adsorption. The treated groundwater would be discharged into the unnamed tributary of Wildcat Brook. The site will be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy. EPA completed an extensive pre-design investigation which had been complicated by the presence of complex fractured bedrock and silt-filled caverns. Additionally, an endangered species of turtle, the bog turtle, was found at the site. EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a plan to ensure that site activity would not impact the turtles. The remedial design for the groundwater extraction and treatment system was completed, and the remedy is under construction.

Cleanup Progress

The source control actions and the completion of some cleanup measures described above have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the Metaltec/Aerosystems site while further cleanup activities are being planned and enacted.

The remedial design for the groundwater extraction and treatment system was completed, and the remedial action was funded, in September 2006. Construction began in March 2008 and is scheduled for completion in September 2008.

Site Repositories

Sussex County Library Main Library 125 Morris Turnpike Newton, N.J. 07860 M-Th 8:30 - 8:30 ; Friday 8:30 - 6:00 ; Sat 9:00 - 5:00

US EPA, Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th Floor New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-4308 Building Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.