

Pijak Farm

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980532808

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 04

Ocean

Plumsted Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/1/1981

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Deletion Date: 3/3/1997

Site Description

The Pijak Farm site is located on Fischer Road, approximately 2 miles northeast of New Egypt. The site area consists of approximately 87 acres and is relatively flat, with portions that drop off into a marshy, wooded flood plain. From 1963 to 1970, drums and free-flowing liquids from a facility disposing of specialty and research chemicals were dumped into a natural ditch that ran through the site and later were covered with soil. There were approximately 3,740 drums on the site. The deteriorated remains of drums were visible along the edge of the flood plain. In 1980, the State found that groundwater was contaminated by organic chemicals. Groundwater is the only source of drinking water in the vicinity of the site. Pijak Farm is one of four Superfund sites, including Spence, Hopkins and Goose Farms, within a 2-mile radius. An estimated 6,600 people reside within 3 miles of the site, and 1,500 residents depend on groundwater for drinking water and other domestic purposes. The nearest well is 700 feet from the site. Groundwater also is used for irrigation and stock watering in surrounding agricultural areas. Municipal drinking water wells are located about 2 miles away from the site. Also nearby are Crosswick Creek and its two unnamed tributaries, which are used for recreation.

Site Responsibility: This site has been addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The groundwater was polluted with the volatile organic compound (VOC) benzene and phthalates, a plastics by-product. The sediments and surface waters were contaminated with VOCs and the pesticide DDT. Groundwater sampling events indicate that the groundwater contamination has dissipated. Contaminated groundwater would discharge to Crosswick Creek and thereby contribute to sediment and surface water contamination. Soil contaminants included the VOC xylene, organic acids, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The removal of surface waste and contaminated soil has greatly reduced the risk posed by possible ingestion of these contaminated materials, as well as removing a source of groundwater contamination.

Cleanup Approach

The site has been addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: Based on the results of the site investigation, in 1984, EPA selected the following methods for cleanup of the site in a Record of Decision: (1) removal and off-site disposal of all drums and lab packs at a federally approved disposal facility; (2) excavation and off-site disposal of visibly contaminated soil at a federally approved disposal facility; (3) pumping and removal of contaminated groundwater, as necessary, during excavation; (4) monitoring of on-site wells annually for a five-year period; and (5) sediment control during excavation and sampling efforts.

Site Facts: An Administrative Order on Consent between Morton Thiokol and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was issued in 1985.

Cleanup Progress

The party potentially responsible for the site contamination, Morton International, under State monitoring, completed the removal and disposal of on-site contaminated drums, lab packs, and visibly contaminated soil to an approved facility,

thereby eliminating risks posed by exposure to these materials. Soil sampling conducted subsequent to these activities indicated the presence of residual PCB contamination in soil at the site. Therefore, between 1989 and 1994 Morton International, under State supervision, provided for the excavation and off-site disposal of the contaminated soil. In all, approximately 4,000 cubic yards (6,400 tons) of waste material and contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of off site. Furthermore, the results of groundwater monitoring conducted over a five-year period indicate that the groundwater is clean. Therefore, the site was deleted from the National Priorities List in March 1997.

Site Repositories

US EPA 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 10007