

Fair Lawn Well Field

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654107

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 05,09

Bergen

Borough of Fair Lawn

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/30/1982

Final Date: 9/8/1983

Site Description

The Fair Lawn Well field site is comprised of three municipal wells that supply drinking water to the 32,000 residents of Fair Lawn, Bergen County, New Jersey. All three wells are part of the Westmoreland Well Field. In 1978, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in these municipal supply wells located within and adjacent to the Fair Lawn Industrial Park. In an effort to identify the origin of the contamination, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) investigated all industrial and commercial facilities within a 3,000 foot radius of the contaminated wells. The investigation concluded that the primary source of the contamination was located in Fair Lawn Industrial Park. As a result of the investigation, three local companies, the Fisher Scientific Company, LLC, Sandvik, Inc. and Eastman Kodak Company, have been identified as contributing sources to the groundwater contamination. The site is bounded predominantly by industries of Fair Lawn with the Fair Lawn Industrial Park to the northeast and the Passaic River to the southwest. Several residences are within 300 feet of the site.

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

Threat and Contaminants

VOCs were detected in the groundwater from the three municipal wells. The threat due to exposure to the contaminated groundwater has been significantly reduced, since air strippers are currently treating contaminated groundwater from the municipal wells prior to distribution to the residents.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial action. The immediate action of wellhead treatment has addressed the municipal well contamination, while the long-term action will focus on the entire groundwater cleanup and controlling potential sources of contamination.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1984, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Fisher Scientific Company, Sandvik, Inc. and Eastman Kodak Company, have removed contaminated soil from a portion of their property. In 1987, the Borough of Fair Lawn installed air strippers to treat the contaminated wells. The PRPs later reimbursed the Borough for the installation of the air strippers and provided funding for future operation and maintenance activities.

Long-Term Actions:

Source Areas: Under NJDEP oversight, the Fisher Scientific, Sandvik and Eastman Kodak have conducted an investigation of their facilities. Fisher has installed cut off trenches and pumping wells at their facility to collect contaminated groundwater for on-site treatment and discharge to a publicly owned water treatment works. Sandvik has removed and disposed of soil and buried drums, and is periodically monitoring the groundwater. Kodak, under a voluntary agreement with the NJDEP, has completed the demolishing and removal of several buildings including contaminated soils from their property, and sampled the soil and groundwater. The PRPs are currently continuing to perform remedial activities on their properties under the NJDEP.

Groundwater: In September 1992, EPA became the lead agency for the site cleanup, and initiated a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination and contributing sources. EPA issued notice of potential liability letters to the Fisher Scientific Company LLC, Sandvik, Inc.

and Eastman Kodak Company in March 2006. These notice letters requested that the PRPs agree to complete the RI/FS at the Site. Pursuant to a Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent issued on March 25, 2008, all three companies have agreed to complete the RI/FS and reimburse the agency for costs expended to date.

Site Facts

The Site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. In March 1984, Fisher Scientific and Sandvik signed Administrative Order on Consents (AOCs) with the NJDEP to conduct on-site investigation of soil and groundwater, removal and disposal of contaminated soils, long-term monitoring of on-site groundwater quality, and payment to the Borough of Fair Lawn for installation, and operation and maintenance of the air stripper. Subsequently, due to a change in ownership, the Fisher site became subject to the Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (ECRA). In 1986, Fisher Scientific's parent company, Allied Signal, signed an AOC with the NJDEP for the continuation of remedial activities, including construction of a groundwater collection system.

During May and June of 1995, EPA, in conjunction with the Fair Lawn Health and Water Department, conducted a residential well sampling and analysis program to determine the quality of residential well water and its usage. It was determined that the residential wells were used either for irrigational purposes or for potable purposes. The sampling results of the program indicated that the wells used for potable purposes met established drinking water standards.

In March 1997, in an effort to gather additional information on the groundwater contamination, EPA requested information from several facilities within Fair Lawn concerning the nature and quantity of certain materials which they may have generated, treated, stored or disposed of at their facilities. In December 1998, EPA requested additional information from several other facilities within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park concerning the nature and quantity of their material. Then, in January 2000, EPA requested information from several realty corporations who own property within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park concerning former and/or present lessees of their property. EPA continues to search for additional potential sources of groundwater contamination.

In April 1999, EPA entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for their technical assistance in completing a groundwater study of the Fair Lawn area. The groundwater flow model developed during the study was used to define areas of influene or capture zones from all existing pumping wells in order to determine who may be contributing to the contamination found at the three municipal wells, and if any further actions were necessary. This study was conducted by the USGS in three phases: Phase I, all of the existing site hydro-geological data was assessed; Phase II, collection of data from conducting an aquifer/slug test, sampling for water quality from five identified wells, and the construction of a hydro-geological groundwater flow model; Phase III, additional hydro-geological data was collected from another identified well for use in completing the groundwater flow model. The final groundwater study report called the "Hydrogeological Framework, Groundwater Quality, and Simulation of Groundwater Flow at the Fair Lawn Well Field Superfund Site " was submitted by the USGS to EPA in May 2005. The report presents and discusses those areas where VOC-contaminated groundwater contributes to the Westmoreland well field, and was used to identify the responsible parties who may be contributing to the contamination at this well field.

The potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Fisher Scientific, Sandvik, and Eastman Kodak, agreed to perform an RI/FS at the site in March 2008. After several submittals of the work plan prepared by the PRPs, EPA approved the final RI/FS work plan in January 2009. The PRPs have completed the first round of vapor intrusion (VI) sampling at various residential and commercial properties. A second VI sampling event is schedule for the winter of 2009/2010. In addition, the PRPs are expected to complete the installation of four overburden, and five shallow and deep bedrock monitoring wells in December 2009. This will be followed by a comprehensive groundwater sampling event.

Cleanup Progress

The immediate actions described above have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated groundwater and soils at the Fair Lawn Well Field site while further investigations are taking place. The impacted public supply wells are currently being treated to remove contaminants and to ensure that the public is provided with a safe drinking water supply. The air stripper located at the Westmoreland Well Field continues to treat approximately 0.2 million gallons per day of contaminated groundwater.

Site Repositories

Maurice M. Pine Library, 10-01 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

USEPA Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th floor, New York, NY 10007, (212) 637-4308