

South Jersey Clothing Company

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980766828

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 02

Atlantic
Buena Borough

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 6/24/1988

Final Date: 10/4/1989

Site Description

The South Jersey Clothing Company (SJCC) was once engaged in the manufacture of military uniforms. As part of the manufacturing process, assembled garments were treated by a dry cleaning unit that utilized trichloroethylene (TCE). These operations generated TCE-contaminated wastewaters and sludges that were routinely discharged onto the ground behind the process building and along the adjacent railroad tracks. In addition, a fire in 1979 may have released an estimated 275 gallons of TCE from a storage tank located on site. In 1981, various sampling efforts by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Atlantic County Department of Health and Institutions revealed significant contamination of groundwater and soils in the vicinity of the site. Later the same year, a number of drums and contaminated soils were excavated and removed from the SJCC site by the site owners. Between 1981 and 1983, the SJCC installed 10 groundwater monitoring wells in the vicinity of the site. In addition, SJCC installed a groundwater extraction and treatment system. In 1985, Buena Borough began construction of a municipal water supply system and expanded it in 1988 to serve approximately 75 percent of its population. The SJCC is located 500 feet from the Garden State Cleaners (GSC) site, also on the NPL. The SJCC and GSC sites were addressed jointly due to their proximity to one another and similar contamination. The surrounding area is predominately rural and one of New Jersey's prime agricultural areas. Approximately 9,000 people obtain drinking water, and 3,800 acres of farmland, are irrigated from wells within 3 miles of the site.

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

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including primarily TCE. Use of contaminated groundwater for domestic purposes and agricultural irrigation may pose a potential health threat. NJDEP has set up a groundwater "Classification Exception Area" (CEA) to restrict groundwater use in the area of the contaminant plume. Private residences located within the borough boundary down gradient from the sites are connected to the municipal water supply system.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site with the construction of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system and a groundwater extraction and treatment system.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1981, the NJDEP and the Atlantic County Department of Health and Institutions responded to a complaint of odors by an area resident. A series of sampling events revealed significant contamination of groundwater and soils in the vicinity of the site. In May 1981, an area of contaminated soils was excavated from the SJCC site by the site owners. Between 1981 and 1983, the SJCC installed 10 groundwater monitoring wells in the vicinity of the site. In addition, in 1985, the SJCC installed a small-scale groundwater extraction and treatment system at the site.

Entire Site: EPA began an intensive investigation of the sites in 1989 to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to identify alternatives for cleanup of the sites. In September 1991, based on the results of the investigation, EPA signed a Record of Decision selecting the following remedy: (1) in-situ treatment of contaminated soil via the vapor extraction process; (2) extraction of groundwater with concentrations of VOCs above cleanup levels; (3) treatment of groundwater with an on-site air stripping column and carbon adsorption units; (4) reinjection of the treated water into the aquifer; and (5) long-term monitoring of groundwater.

Site Facts: Based on information obtained from the site owners and other sources, EPA determined that the company is neither financially nor technically capable of undertaking the remedial actions chosen. Instead, the EPA is conducting the required work using Trust Fund monies.

Cleanup Progress

In August 1995, EPA completed the demolition of an existing structure at the site. In August 1995, EPA completed the design for the extraction and treatment of the contaminated groundwater. In fall 1997, EPA started construction of the system. EPA has been operating the groundwater extraction and treatment system since February 1999. The groundwater extraction and treatment system is currently treating over 350 gallons of contaminated groundwater per minute, and discharging the treated water back into the aquifer. In 2006 and 2007, EPA added three additional groundwater extraction wells.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 1007 (212) 637-4308

Borough of Buena Municipal Building 616 Central Ave. Minotola, NJ