

Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Ground Water Area

New York

EPA ID#: NYSFN0204234

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 04

Nassau
Garden City

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 2/4/2000
Final Date: 5/11/2000

Site Description

The Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Ground Water Area (ORCA) Site is located on the eastern side of Clinton Road approximately 0.6 mile south of the intersection with Old Country Road. That intersection was the northwest corner of Roosevelt Field and its predecessors, which were used for aviation activities from 1911 until May 1951. The original airfield, known as the Hempstead Plains Aerodrome, encompassed 900 to 1,000 acres east of Clinton Road and south of Old Country Road. The U.S. military began using the Hempstead Plains field before the U.S. entered World War I. On September 24, 1918, the Army changed the name of the airfield to Roosevelt Field. In the 1920's, Roosevelt Field was split into two separate airfields. The eastern field was sold in 1936 and became a racetrack, while the western field located at the corner of Clinton and Old Country Roads continued to operate as an aviation center.

After World War II, Roosevelt Field reverted to a commercial airport until it closed in May 1951. Building construction at the site began in 1956. The Roosevelt Field Shopping Mall and Garden City Plaza currently occupy what was once Roosevelt Field.

Garden City public supply wells 10 and 11 were installed at what had been the southwestern corner of the airfield in 1952 and put into use in 1953. The population served by each well is estimated to be 3,400 people. The wells have shown the presence of tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) since they were first sampled in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and the concentrations have increased since then. In 1987, an air-stripping treatment system was installed at the site to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the raw water being pumped from wells 10 and 11. The treatment system was upgraded in 1999. Nassau County conducts regular well sampling and analysis.

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

Threat and Contaminants

The Site consists of ground water contaminated with carbon tetrachloride; 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE); tetrachloroethene (PCE); and trichloroethene (TCE) above health benchmarks. This contamination has impacted Garden City public supply wells 10 and 11. However, an air-stripping treatment system was installed to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the raw water being pumped from wells 10 and 11. The public water supply is routinely tested in insure compliance with Federal and State drinking water standards.

Historically, the highest levels of TCE were detected in cooling-water well N8050, formerly located approximately 2,000 feet north-northeast of the Garden City wells. Garden City wells 10 and 11 and the former cooling-water well N8050 are all located on the property that historically was Roosevelt Field.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: EPA has conducted a remedial investigation /feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Site. EPA also conducted a vapor intrusion study of the commercial buildings on the Site and at several residences located to the west side of Clinton Road.

Cleanup Progress

Since adding this site to the NPL, EPA has performed a review of the data collected for the Site and is coordinating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in planning future activities. The RI/FS commenced in summer 2005. Field work has been completed. In August 2007, EPA released a Proposed Plan to inform the public of EPA's preferred remedy to address ground water contamination and to solicit public comment. A Record of Decision was signed in September 2007. The ROD calls for a pre-design investigation and extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater.

Site Repositories

U.S.E.P.A. Region 2 Superfund Records Center 290 Broadway, Room 1828 New York, New York, 10007-1866
Telephone No. (212) 637-4308

Garden City Public Library 60 Seventh Street Garden City, New York 11530 Telephone No. (516) 742-8405

Hempstead Public Library 115 Nichols Court Hempstead, New York 11550 Telephone No. (516) 481-6990 Old Roosevelt
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