

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

EPA ID Number: NJD002147023

Other (Former) Names of Site

Sandoz

Site Facts

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation is a 180-acre site, located on 59 Route 10, in an industrial, commercial and residential area in East Hanover, New Jersey. It manufactures, compounds and packages pharmaceuticals, as well as doing pharmaceutical research and development.

The company, which was formerly known as Sandoz, began operating this facility in 1955. The wastes generated are liquid tank bottom residues, chlorinated solvents, contaminated animal feed, flammables, waste oil, dust residue and manufacturing waste. The hazardous wastes are accumulated and stored in above-ground storage tanks. There are wetlands and surface water on the site.

Contamination

The environmental threats at the site include soil and groundwater contaminated primarily with chloroform, trichloroethane, benzene, chlorine and sodium. Presently there is chloroform in the groundwater. The main sources responsible for the organic contamination were leaking underground storage tanks, a wastewater lagoon, an inactive skimming tank, a former incinerator building and an inactive on-site treatment system.

What Is Being Done

Novartis has characterized the hydrogeology of the site and the sources of contamination. Novartis has removed all underground storage tanks and cleaned up contaminated soil. It has been determined that the chloroform contamination in the sand and gravel aquifer is from an on-site source. There are five production wells that are used as drinking-water wells. Because the water reaching the wells exceeds drinking water standards for trichloroethylene, trichloroethane and tetrachloroethylene (due to off-site sources), it is treated before it is pumped to on-site and off-site users.

What Remains To Be Done

The extent of the chloroform contamination in the groundwater is contained within the site. To confirm that the chloroform contamination is not flowing off-site, the company is currently installing additional wells at the perimeter of the site that will be monitored.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in the site fact sheet are available for public review at the following location:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
Records Center
401 E. State Street, 6th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625
Telephone (609) 777-3373