



# Review of Sampling Data and Reports DuPont Pompton Lakes Works Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

A presentation by  
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# Agenda

- Introduction to TASC
- Site background
- How chemicals move in the environment and risk management
- TASC's review of ground water sampling



# Introduction to TASC

- **T**echnical **A**ssistance **S**ervices for **C**ommunities
-  **EPA**-sponsored program
- Independent services provided by Skeo Solutions
  - Information assistance
  - Community education
  - Technical expertise
  - Technical assistance needs evaluation & plan development
  - Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)
  - Guidance through Superfund process



# Introduction to TASC





## Site Background

- Located in the boroughs of Pompton Lakes and Wanaque in central Passaic County in northern New Jersey
- About 570 acres
- Operated from 1902 to 1994
- Generated a variety of explosives and explosive products. Process wastes were discharged to unlined ponds and lagoons.



# What Happens When Chemicals Spill?



Chemicals can:

- volatilize into the air
- stick to the soil
- run off into streams or lakes
- percolate down through the soil
  - float on the water table
  - sink under the aquifer
  - dissolve in the ground water
- degrade naturally



# What Happens When Chemicals Spill?

- VOCs (volatile organic compounds)
  - Volatilize into the air
  - Percolate through the soil and dissolve slowly into ground water, creating a ground water plume
  - Pool in crevices in the subsurface and become a source for ground water contamination
- PAHs (polycyclic aromatic compounds) and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)
  - Less likely than VOCs to dissolve in water or to percolate into the ground water
  - Tend to stick to soil particles



# What Happens When Chemicals Spill?

- Metals
  - Depends on soil conditions
  - Generally, more acidic conditions mobilize metals
- Explosive compounds
  - Depends on the specific chemical and soil conditions
  - Can contaminate soil and ground water





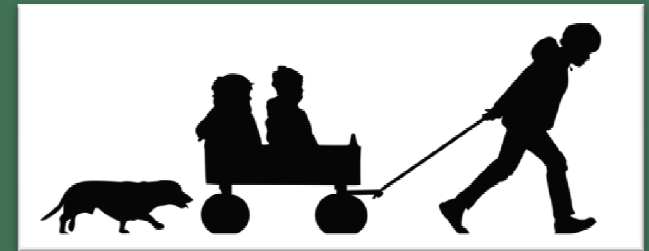
# Risk happens when ...



1. Contaminants exist
2. Concentrations are high enough



3. There is a pathway for exposure (a way for people to come into contact with contamination)



4. There are receptors (people, animals, a sensitive ecosystem)



# Exposure Pathways

**Inhalation**



**Ingestion**

**Skin Contact**





# Risk Management

Every contaminated site is different. Decisions need to be made based on the specific conditions of the site and specific risk factors.





# Risk Management

Goal – to reduce contaminant concentrations at the point of exposure to acceptable levels by:

- Removing the source
- Treating and containing contamination
- Eliminating exposure pathways



# TASC's Review of Ground Water Sampling

- Goal:
  - to determine whether the 10 ground water contaminants being tested for by DuPont are an appropriately comprehensive list of ground water contaminants migrating off site



# TASC Document Review

- 1982 Superfund scoring package
- November 1995 *Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Plan*
- 2000 ground water report
- 2004 ground water report
- 2009 ground water sampling data
- January 2010 *Remedial Technology Evaluation for Offsite Groundwater Contamination*
- June 2010 *Remedial Investigation Report*
- December 2010 *Vapor Intrusion Remedial Investigation Report*



# DuPont's Ground Water Sampling

312 analytes



34 above Class II-A  
standards



11 contaminants  
of concern



10 contaminants  
of concern



# Groundwater COCs

## – Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

- tetrachloroethene (PCE)
- trichloroethene (TCE)
- *cis*-1,2-dichloroethene (*cis*-1,2-DCE)
- *trans*-1,2-DCE
- 1,1-DCE
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane
- 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA)
- 1,2-DCA
- vinyl chloride
- carbon tetrachloride

PCE and daughters

## – Lead (eliminated from sampling in 2000)





# Soil Contaminants

- Metals
  - lead, mercury and copper are primary contaminants of concern (COCs)
- VOCs
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Explosives (only 3 samples exceeded New Jersey residential direct contact soil cleanup criteria)



# Findings

- No significant deficiencies in the processes used to identify COCs
- Ground water analyses for many different chemicals were completed
- Adequate sampling and analyses of soil in different locations of the PLW
- In general, care has been taken to analyze for appropriate chemicals based on known activities in different locations of the PLW



# Recommendations 1

- Compare all sampling data against **current** New Jersey ground water quality standards
  - Some chemicals did not have a ground water quality criterion in 1995, but now do
  - Some chemicals now have more stringent ground water quality criteria
- Recalculate health-based screening levels



## Recommendations 2

- Consider testing ground water for:
  - perchlorate
  - organic explosives: PETN, RDX, TNT, tetryl and HMX
  - benzene



# Contact Information

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