

Rockaway Borough Well Field

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654115

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 11

Morris County
Rockaway Borough

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 11/30/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Rockaway Borough Well Field site covers a 2-square-mile area and includes three municipal water supply wells, which are located in a glacial aquifer designated by EPA as the sole source aquifer for Rockaway Borough and the surrounding communities. Eight other wells previously used for potable water supply by the Borough were abandoned because of their lack of productivity. In 1980, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the municipal wells. The contaminated wells are close to the Rockaway River, which runs through the Borough. The site is located in a suburban residential setting and is surrounded by homes, businesses, and municipal property. The Borough of Rockaway's municipal wells supply potable water to about 11,000 people.

Site Facts: EPA identified six parties potentially responsible for the contamination at the site and issued Special Notice letters providing them the opportunity to perform or finance the Remedial Design and Remedial Action. EPA reached a settlement with Cordant Technologies (formerly known as Thiokol Corporation and now a part of Alliant Techsystems, Inc.).

A Consent Decree was entered with the Federal District Court in Newark, New Jersey on October 26, 1994. Under this Consent Decree, Cordant agreed to perform the remedial design for the entire site and the cleanup of contaminated groundwater for a portion of the site. The settlement also required Cordant to pay Rockaway Borough's water treatment operation costs and \$800,000 of EPA's past response costs. EPA has also reached a settlement with the remaining PRPs for reimbursement of additional past response costs.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Although 13 VOCs have been detected in the well water, trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) are the primary contaminants of concern. Well water is treated to drinking water standards before being supplied to the residents of Rockaway Borough.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in three stages: initial actions and two long-term remedial actions focusing on cleanup of groundwater and the sources of the contamination.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1981, an emergency was declared due to the groundwater contamination, and the residents supplied by the distribution system were advised not to use their tap water for drinking and cooking. Temporary drinking water supplies were trucked in by the National Guard. In 1981, the Borough installed an activated carbon water treatment system to reduce contaminant concentrations. Rockaway Borough has since upgraded its existing treatment system with the installation of an air stripper to ensure compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Groundwater: In March 1985, the State initiated an investigation at the site which confirmed the presence of VOC contamination in the groundwater. A Record of Decision (ROD) signed on September 29, 1986, called for the continuation of the existing well-head treatment system and further study to identify sources and to delineate the full extent of contamination. EPA subsequently completed a supplemental study involving the identification of contaminant source areas, further delineation of the extent of groundwater contamination, and evaluation of additional alternatives for

final groundwater cleanup. EPA's supplemental study identified two separate plumes of groundwater contamination now known as the "Klockner and Klockner" and "East Main Street/Wall Street" plumes. In a second operable unit ROD signed on September 30, 1991, EPA selected a remedial action which entails extracting and treating contaminated groundwater to restore the aquifer. The remedy includes: (1) the installation of extraction wells; (2) treatment of extracted groundwater by chemical precipitation and air stripping; (3) reinjection of treated groundwater; and (4) appropriate environmental monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy. The design of the remedy for both plumes has been completed by Alliant Techsystems, Inc., which acquired Cordant Technologies (formerly known as Thiokol Corporation) in April 2001. The Klockner and Klockner groundwater treatment system construction was completed in December 2005 and startup of the systems began in January 2006. Alliant is performing the remedial action for this plume.

The design of the East Main Street/Wall Street groundwater treatment system has been completed and construction activities began in summer 2007.

Source Control: Additional investigations to further delineate contamination within the immediate source areas were necessary. The East Main Street/Wall Street Area and the Klockner and Klockner Property are the two areas identified as sources of the groundwater contamination.

An RI/FS to characterize the East Main Street/Wall Street portion of the Rockaway Borough Well Field site was completed in 2006 and a ROD was signed for the source area in September 2006. The ROD calls for the excavation of contaminated soil and off-site disposal and/or treatment. Design of the East Main Street/Wall Street portion of the site was completed in September 2008. The design included the addition of a soil vapor and extraction system to address the soil contamination under the 2 Wall Street building that cannot be excavated. The potential use of a soil vapor extraction system was included in the September 2006 ROD. The East Main Street/Wall Street remedial work will be completed by the end of summer 2009.

An RI/FS for the Klockner and Klockner Property was completed in 2007 and a ROD was signed for the source area in September 2007. The ROD calls for soil vapor extraction of VOCs beneath Building 12, excavation and off-site disposal and/or treatment of approximately 150 cubic yards of VOC-contaminated soil near Building 13, and excavation of approximately 27 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil near Building 12. Design of the remedial action will occur following negotiation with the PRPs.

Cleanup Progress

The installation of a water treatment system by the Borough has significantly reduced the threat of exposure to contaminants in drinking water while activities leading to the final cleanup take place.

Alliant Techsystems, Inc. has constructed a groundwater extraction and treatment system for the Klockner and Klockner plume, and the system has been operating since January 2006.

EPA has initiated construction activities for the East Main Street/Wall Street groundwater extraction and treatment system.

EPA has also completed the remedial design of the East Main Street/Wall Street source control remedy, and anticipates conducting remedial action activities in spring 2009. A remedial design for the Klockner and Klockner source area to commence following negotiations with a PRP in 2009.

Site Repositories

Rockaway Borough Free Library 82 East Main Street Rockaway, New Jersey 07866 (973) 627-5709

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