

**Chipman Chemical (Reagent Chemical Company) (II-49)  
Middlesex, New Jersey  
30 June 1985**

**Location and Nature of Site**

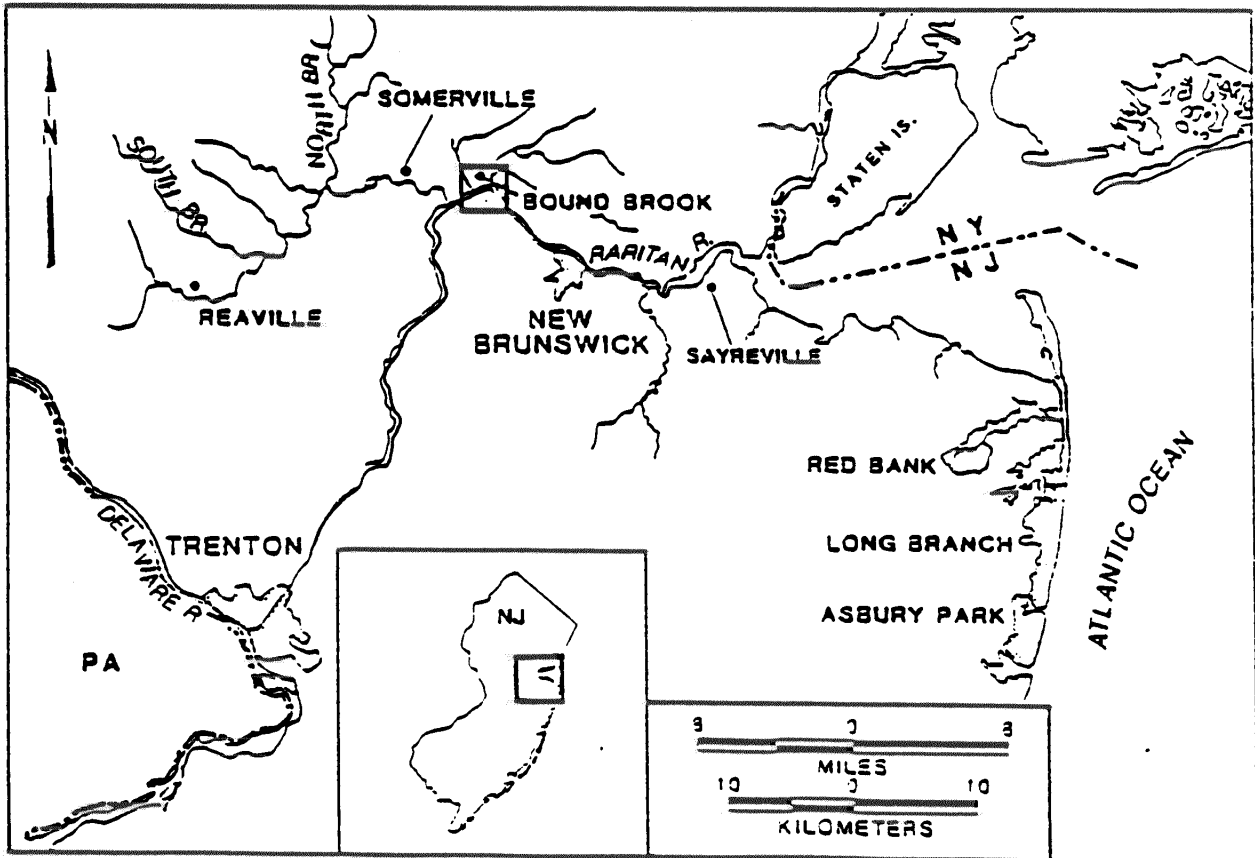
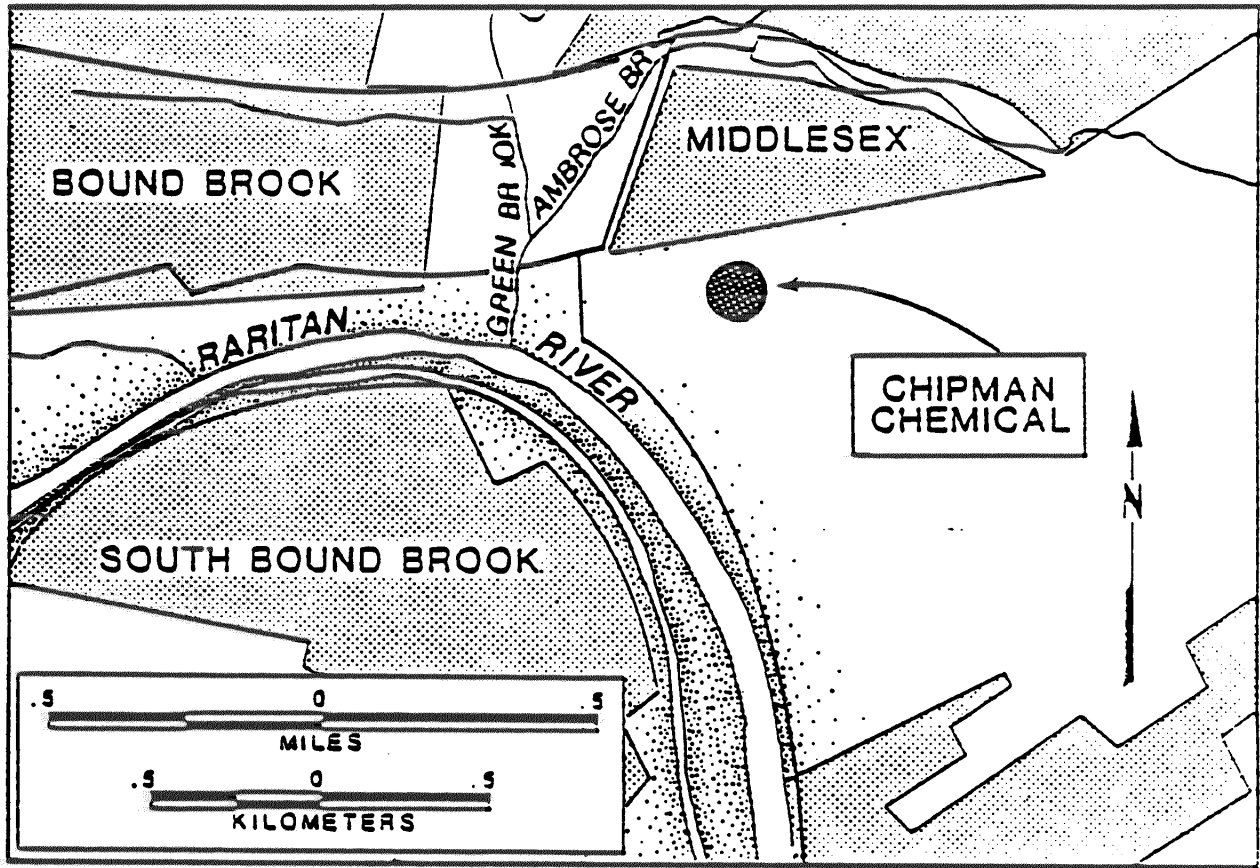
Chipman Chemical is an abandoned pesticide dump located within the boundary of an active facility presently owned by the Reagent Chemical Company, a manufacturer of sulfur products for the lubricating industry. Heavy metals, solvents, and pesticide wastes, including DDT, chlordane, arsenic, lead, copper, and mercury are partially buried on-site.

Marasol Solvent Recovery Company has been identified as a possible contributor to the contamination in this area. Other chemical and manufacturing operations in the area are believed to be responsible for contaminating the local water table. Although the State of New Jersey has dye-tested the sewer lines of these facilities, it has not been able to identify which industry or manufacturing process is responsible for the leachate stream. Chipman Chemical has been identified as the generator because the outflow pipe which is discharging the contaminated leachate into the Raritan River is located on Chipman Chemical property.

**Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources**

The site is located in a marshy area approximately 60 meters from the Raritan River. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimated that more than 25 gallons per day of leachate had discharged into the river from the entire industrial area.

Groundwater at the site was found to contain arsenic (3 ppb), zinc (116 ppb), cadmium (8 ppb), trichloroethylene and chloroform (18 ppb total), and trimethyl benzene (118 ppb). Discharge of contaminants into the Raritan River from the Chipman Chemical site is now said to be negligible. In 1982 the sewer line was extended to the Chipman property and other sites in coordination with a groundwater pumping system which extracts chemical contaminants and then discharges into the sewer. The levels of contaminants



have been dropping since this system was installed. Measurements made in 1984 had not been compiled by the State of New Jersey as of this printing but it is believed by the Middlesex County Department of Health that the levels have again been reduced.

## **Marine Resources at Risk**

The site is located adjacent to the Raritan River approximately 15 kilometers upstream of the confluence of South River at Sayreville, New Jersey. The region of the Raritan River at Sayreville is characterized by estuarine habitats. These estuaries are important spawning and nursery grounds for numerous marine organisms.

The Raritan River in the vicinity of the site was historically a spawning area for alewife and blueback herring, and at one time was also a striped bass and American shad spawning area. Today, this section of the river is marginally important as a recreational resource with minimal freshwater fishing activity. Few striped bass and blueback herring are caught in the lower sections above Sayreville. Blueback herring are presently known to spawn around Sayreville, and striped bass juveniles originating from Hudson River stocks do migrate up the Raritan to Bound Brook. Some adult alewife are also present in the river up to Bound Brook but spawning has not been observed recently.

The site may pose a threat to any downstream migrations of American shad released by the New Jersey Department of Fish, Game and Wildlife if the groundwater pumping systems are not maintained or are otherwise ineffective.

## **Site Chronology**

- 1970's Operation as an industrial dump, Chipman Chemical.
- May 1982 New Jersey DEP test of the production well on site.
- June 1982 Sewer line extended to Chipman property to collect groundwater discharge.
- Feb. 1983 Chipman hires contractor to develop a work plan.
- 1985 Expected approval of the work plan.

NOAA Reviewer: Gary Ott, SSC NOAA Hazardous Materials Response Branch  
State Contact: Maurice Bulris, Project Officer

## **References**

- Cohen, Dr. Ronald, 1985. Personal Communication. Middlesex County Department of Health.
- Hazardous Waste Site Report, 1983. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**Kunze, Bob, 1985. Personal Communication. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.**

**Maac, Charles, 1985. Personal Communication. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Enforcement.**

**Stewart, Bob, 1985. Personal Communication. New Jersey Department of Fish, Game and Wildlife.**