Rockaway Township Wells

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654214

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 11

Morris

Rockaway Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/1/1982
Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Rockaway Township Wells site is a 2-square-mile well field area containing a cluster of three municipal wells within 100 feet of each other. In 1979 and 1980, the wells were found to contain a variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Groundwater contamination in the area appears to have resulted from several sources. Monitoring wells in the area indicated widespread contamination by chlorinated solvents and fuel components. In 1980, a treatment system for the wells was installed and included an air stripping system and an activated carbon system. Only one of the three wells is currently in operation. The Valley Fill aquifer is the only water supply source capable of meeting the Township's water demand.

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

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater is contaminated with VOCs including trichloroethylene (TCE). Inhaling volatilized organics released into indoor air during water use and ingesting and direct contact with contaminated water were potential health threats prior to the installation of the water treatment system.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two long-term remedial phases focusing on cleanup of the groundwater contamination and the sources of the contamination.

Response Action Status

Groundwater: The EPA and the State conducted a study into the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at the site. The study identified the contaminants of concern and evaluated remediation alternatives. EPA selected a remedy for the contaminated groundwater in an October 1993 Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy includes extraction of contaminated groundwater, air stripping and reinjection of treated groundwater, and replacement of the Rockaway Township air stripping system.

A potentially responsible party (PRP) replaced the air stripping system with a new air stripping system in May 1995, as called for in the ROD.

Source Control: Additional investigations were conducted to further delineate potential contamination sources within the Denville Technical Park (DTP), from which the groundwater contamination emanates. In October 2002, a ROD was signed for the source area which selected soil vapor extraction as the remedy for contaminated soils at the Denville Technical Park.

Site Facts: Under an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection dated March 13, 1996, the PRP agreed to perform the remedy selected in the 1993 ROD and perform an investigation and potential remediation of the Denville Technical Park. Under the ACO, the PRP has also agreed to pay for the operation and maintenance of the Township’s new air stripping system.

Cleanup Progress

A ROD was signed in October 1993 which selected an extraction and treatment remedy to address the contaminated groundwater. The ROD also called for the replacement of the Township's air stripper which was in a deteriorated condition. The PRP replaced the air stripper in May 1995. The State approved the remedial investigation and feasibility study for the source operable unit in August 1999. On October 8, 2002, a ROD was signed for the source operable unit and a modification to the groundwater remedy selected in the 1993 ROD. The modification to the groundwater remedy allowed the treated water to be discharged to surface water. Construction of both remedies was simultaneously completed in June 2005. Constructed at the Denville Technical Park, the new treatment system extracts and treats soil vapors and groundwater contaminated from beneath the site. A preliminary closeout report prepared in September 2005 by EPA determined that the remedies were constructed in accordance with both the EPA- and NJDEP-approved Records of Decision and the remedial designs. In September 2006, EPA approved a Remedial Action Report for the groundwater and soil treatment systems. Quarterly sampling of both systems by the PRP continues to indicate that they are operating as intended. In August 2008, the State requested that the PRP conduct a vapor intrusion investigation to determine if chemicals vapor are inpacting the indoor air quality of areas buildings. In November 2008, a vapor intrusion work plan was submitted by the PRP to the State and EPA.

Site Repositories

Rockaway Township Public Library, 61 Mt. Hope Road, Rockaway Township, N.J. 07866-1699