



Index F47  
113

# Response Measures Continue

Hopewell Precision Site  
East Fishkill, New York

October 2003

## Our Goal is to Keep You Informed

Public participation is essential to the success of the superfund program and EPA. If you have any questions regarding EPA's response activities at the site, please contact Don Graham, On-Scene Coordinator, at (732) 321-4345, or call Jim Haklar, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at (212) 637-3677.

## Regional Public Liaison

EPA, Region 2 has designated a Regional Public Liaison for you to call and express your concerns or complaints about the Superfund program. Please call (888) 283-7626.

## Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

A representative of ATSDR is available to answer health-related questions. Please call Jonathan Blonk, ATSDR Associate Regional Representative, at (212) 637-4304.

For information on the Superfund process, please visit EPA's website at:

[www.epa.gov/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/superfund)

Information on the various tools and resources available to community groups, as well as fact sheets about other sites, can be found there.

For information on safe drinking water levels and the chemicals which EPA limits in drinking water, please visit:

[www.epa.gov/OGWDW/mcl.html](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/mcl.html)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing its efforts to address the groundwater contamination at the Hopewell Precision Site. A summary of the response measures taken by EPA is provided below.

## (First-Time) Sampling of Private Wells

Since February of this year, EPA has sampled the private (drinking water) wells of 341 properties (mostly residences) located in the vicinity of the site. The samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (these are chemicals which can readily evaporate into the air). Based on the laboratory results, there are 43 properties with private wells contaminated with Trichloroethylene (also known as TCE) at levels ranging from 0.49 ppb to 250 ppb. 36 of these properties have private wells containing TCE at or above the federal safe drinking water level of 5 parts per billion (this safe drinking water level is also called the Maximum Contaminant Level, or "MCL"). While other volatile organic compounds were periodically found in the groundwater (such as the chemical 1,1,1-Trichloroethane and the gasoline additive known as MTBE), TCE was the only chemical found to exceed its MCL. TCE is a chemical used for cleaning or degreasing.

The information from the residential well sampling indicates that the contamination has spread from Ryan Drive, in a south-westerly direction, to Clove Branch Road. EPA's sampling results do not indicate that the TCE contamination extends beyond Clove Branch Road, and so additional (new) private wells are not being sampled at the present time.

## Installing Carbon Filtration Systems

EPA installed carbon filtration systems at the 36 properties described above. The filtration systems remove the contamination from the well water to make the water safe for use. Sampling of the filtration systems reveals that they are effectively removing TCE from the drinking water.

## Resampling of Private Wells

Private wells within the area where contaminated groundwater was found are being resampled by EPA on a quarterly basis. Private wells selected for quarterly sampling will include those homes determined to be most at risk of becoming contaminated with TCE. This sampling is critical for evaluating if contamination levels are changing, and whether EPA needs to take additional response measures to ensure that the residents can safely use the water.

## Finding the Source of the Contamination

EPA has committed additional resources to help determine both the source of the contamination and the way in which contaminated groundwater moves throughout the area. Technical experts from EPA's Environmental

Response Team (ERT) measured the depths of many of the private wells, in order to see exactly where groundwater is entering the wells.

In addition, ERT has installed and sampled 6 new groundwater monitoring wells at various locations in the Ryan Drive area. ERT will be conducting additional sampling activities in the area of Ryan Drive in a continuing effort to identify the source of the TCE contamination.

In addition to the ERT, the U.S. Geological Survey has been retained to help evaluate the information collected by EPA.

### **The National Priorities List (NPL)**

The NPL is a published list of hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup action under the Superfund program. EPA is currently evaluating the eligibility of the site for the NPL.

### **Scheduling A Public Forum**

Once all of the information has been collected and evaluated, EPA will present its findings to the community in a public forum. The public forum will consist of a formal presentation (in a group setting), and there will be a question and answer period.