

Post Road Ground Water Contamination Site Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County

NJDEP Program Interest (PI) #: 632263



In 2014, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began investigating residential potable (drinking water) wells in southern Buena Vista Township after the Atlantic County Health Department (ACHD) determined several private potable (drinking water) wells in the area of Post Road were contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and mercury above New Jersey's Ground Water Quality Standards. VOCs are key components of a wide variety of industrial and commercial products such as degreasers, dry cleaning fluid, refrigerants and fuels. Mercury is a metal that is often detected in the ground water in southern New Jersey.

Between April 2014 and October 2015, DEP collected water samples from 105 private potable wells in Buena Vista Township and Vineland. The samples were analyzed for VOCs, mercury, several synthetic organic compounds that are used in fumigants and other agricultural chemicals, as well as perchlorate anion, an inorganic substance associated with munitions and fertilizers. Of the 105 wells sampled to date, 43 had at least one contaminant of concern present at concentrations above the applicable New Jersey Ground Water Quality Standard. The following contaminants were found in well water samples at concentrations exceeding Ground Water Quality Standards: trichloroethene (TCE), vinyl chloride, cis-1,2 dichloroethene, 1,2-dichloropropane, 1,2,3 trichloropropane, mercury and perchlorate anion.

In August 2015, based on the findings of soil and ground water investigations that it conducted in the area, DEP identified the former municipal landfill on North Union Road as a source of VOCs affecting area wells. In accordance with New Jersey's Site Remediation Reform Act of 2009, DEP directed Buena Vista Township officials to hire a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to investigate the extent of the VOC contamination at the landfill and implement remedial measures.

Due to the VOC contamination in private wells, DEP also initiated a supplemental investigation to evaluate the possibility of vapor intrusion affecting homes. Residential soil gas and indoor air samples were collected from properties near wells that had the highest concentrations of VOCs. The sampling results did not reveal any evidence of vapor intrusion related to the contaminants of concern for the Post Road Ground Water Contamination site. DEP plans to resample one residence where an elevated VOC unrelated to the Post Road Ground Water Contamination site was detected in order to determine whether it could be due to another source.

The next round of vapor intrusion testing is scheduled for late March and additional potable well sampling is also scheduled for April. The analytical results from these samples will be used along with existing analytical results to define the currently known extent of ground water contamination and define a project area for evaluation of alternative water supply options. DEP will continue to work with ACHD and Buena Vista Township officials to evaluate ground water and drinking water quality in the area.

Residents whose well water is determined to be contaminated above New Jersey Ground Water Quality Standards can apply for Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems to remove the contamination from their wells through the New Jersey Spill Fund. The installation, monitoring and maintenance of the POET systems are provided to eligible residents at no cost. Information about the Spill Fund and a link to the claim form are available on DEP's web page at: www.nj.gov/dep/srp/finance/eca.htm.

For information on filing a claim through the Spill Fund, please contact:

Dominick Dortch
DEP Financial Services Element – Fund Management Section
Mail Code: 401-06J
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Phone: (609) 777-0284 Fax: (609) 292-4401
Dominick.Dortch@dep.nj.gov

If you need assistance completing the Spill Fund application, please contact Buena Vista Township Clerk Lisa Tilton at the Township Municipal Complex, 890 Harding Highway, Buena, NJ, or by calling (856) 697-2100.

If you have questions about possible health impacts due to the contaminated well water, please contact the New Jersey Department of Health’s Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program at (609) 826-4984. For more information about the site contaminants, please refer to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s web site at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp .

Glossary

Ground Water: Subsurface water that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil or gravel.

Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP): A highly qualified environmental professional licensed by the New Jersey Site Remediation Professional Board and authorized to perform remedial activities at contaminated and potentially contaminated properties with limited oversight by DEP.

Point-of-Entry Treatment System (POET): A water filtration system that removes contaminants from private potable wells. These are frequently used in ground water contamination areas where residents rely on private wells.

Potable Water: Water that is safe for drinking and cooking.

Soil Gas: Gaseous compounds and elements present in the small spaces between particles of soil.

Vapor Intrusion: Occurs when gases emitting from VOC-contaminated soil or ground water seep through cracks and holes in the foundations or slabs of buildings and accumulate in basements, crawl spaces and/or living areas.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC): Carbon-containing chemicals that evaporate readily at room temperature. Examples of products that contain VOCs include gasoline, dry cleaning fluid and paint thinners.

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor



Bob Martin, Commissioner

***Site Remediation & Waste Management Program
Office of Community Relations
(609) 984-3081
www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community***