

Fiscal Year 2016 Unfunded New Construction Project



Radiation Technology, Inc. Superfund Site Rockaway Township, New Jersey

Site Description

[Radiation Technology, Inc.](#) (RTI) is a 263-acre site located close to Lake Denmark in Rockaway, New Jersey. The site's surrounding area is generally characterized by residential and light-industrial land uses.

Prior to 1972, activities at the site included testing and developing rocket motors and propellants. Since 1972, on-site operations have included radiation sterilization, architectural product production, and hardwood flooring production and finishing.

Sampling of two on-site water-supply wells in 1981 by the Rockaway Township Health Department showed groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds. The contamination resulted from improperly stored and disposed waste drums containing solvents and other organic chemicals.

The area depends on groundwater for drinking supplies. The contamination is not affecting drinking water wells.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- As a result of enforcement actions by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, RTI conducted several site activities including groundwater monitoring and sampling, an investigation into the nature and extent of site contamination, and removal of abandoned tanks and drums. These activities occurred from 1983 until 1997, when RTI ceased operations.
- In 2001, EPA took over site cleanup activities at New Jersey's request. In 2004, EPA's enforcement actions against Alliant Techsystems (the successor to Thiokol, the former site owner and operator), resulted in a negotiated consent decree whereby the firm agreed to undertake site groundwater cleanup. Alliant is currently conducting a pilot study to see if emulsified oil injection can be used to treat the groundwater in lieu of groundwater extraction and treatment.
- Also in 2004, EPA and Alliant Techsystems agreed that Alliant would perform a remedial investigation of potentially contaminated source areas on the site. The investigation revealed that a drum-waste disposal area needed to be addressed. In 2011, EPA issued a cleanup plan calling for the excavation of drum material and associated soil, which Alliant completed in 2014.
- In 2013, EPA completed its investigation of remaining on-site buildings and structures leading to the identification and removal of 70 drums and containers. EPA also found asbestos, lead and PCB-contaminated material. It issued a cleanup plan to demolish and selectively remove the contaminated material in 2014.
- In December 2014, EPA removed and disposed of all observed friable asbestos from the six buildings in which it was documented.
- EPA has determined that all unacceptable human exposure pathways have been eliminated, and therefore, under current conditions, human exposure is under control site-wide.

Unfunded Action

The FY 2016 unfunded remedial action for this site consists of building and structure demolition and selective removal and disposal of contaminated structures and wastes.

Funding Status

To date, EPA has spent approximately \$160,200 on construction work at the site.