



## Ellis Property Site

Evesham Township, New Jersey

### Site Description

Ellis Property is a 36-acre site located in Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. The site's surrounding area is generally characterized by residential, agricultural and light industrial land uses. This property was originally a dairy farm, until acquired by Irving Ellis in 1968. Approximately four of the 36 acres were used in drum reconditioning operations—drums were rinsed and resold. Surficial spills and discharges associated with drum reconditioning and chemical storage are believed to have contributed to site soil and groundwater contamination. Operations ceased in the late 1970s following a fire. However, storage of drums at the site continued into the 1980s. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List on September 1, 1983. A Burlington County Health Department survey found no private wells near the site using the shallow aquifer. The groundwater contamination at the site is limited to the shallow aquifer. Currently, the land is vacant, undeveloped and overgrown with weeds. Residents in the area are on public water supply.

### Current Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- The original Record of Decision (ROD) in 1992 addressed soil and groundwater contamination. The remedy included excavation and off-site disposal of metals- and polychlorinated biphenyls- contaminated soils, and construction of a groundwater collection and treatment (C&T) system to address volatile organic compounds (VOC) contamination in groundwater.
- A total of 1,400 cubic yards of excavated soils were disposed of at an approved off-site facility. Excavations were backfilled with clean fill that was tested prior to being brought on site. All these excavations were performed above the water table, and all work was completed by 1998.
- Construction of the groundwater C&T system commenced on September 28, 1999, and was completed on June 5, 2000. The C&T system started up on June 16, 2000, and was determined to be operational and functional on August 31, 2000.
- While the response actions taken to date have eliminated drums and large areas of contaminated soil, residual trichloroethylene (TCE) in localized areas of the site in the shallow aquifer have been consistently identified in monitoring wells. TCE and other VOCs found in groundwater today were not identified as soil contaminants at the time of the original ROD because they were not detected at significant concentrations.
- In 2006, EPA performed a Remediation System Evaluation (RSE) of site operations. The RSE found that the extraction wells were located in low-permeability soil formations and identified the presence of the sand channel on the northern part of the site. The sand channel was believed to limit the effectiveness of the northern portion of the collection trench in adequately intercepting contamination. Consequently, a cutoff wall was installed in 2012 to isolate the contaminated groundwater from the sand channel and direct it, instead, to the collection trench.
- The RSE also suggested additional site investigation activities be conducted to determine if dense nonaqueous-phase liquids (DNAPLs) were present at the site. In 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) conducted a Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) to further delineate the residual source(s) and extent of contamination in soil and groundwater, to evaluate the presence of DNAPLs, and assess potential changes to the groundwater remedy.
- The PDI identified a source of VOC contamination (primarily TCE) in the subsurface soils at the site. These VOCs are contributing to groundwater contamination and are preventing the groundwater collection and treatment system from restoring the aquifer. Currently the site is vacant and there are no buildings located above the contaminated groundwater plume.
- In September 2013, EPA issued a ROD Amendment that included excavation and in-situ treatment to address TCE source and residual contamination in the soil, and operation of the C&T system for at least one year.
- In November 2013, EPA initiated the remedial design under an interagency agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- The remedial design was completed in September 2015.
- EPA determined all unacceptable human exposure pathways have been eliminated, and therefore, under current conditions, human exposure is under control site wide.

### Unfunded Action

The Fiscal Year 2015 work that was not funded for this site include excavation and in-situ treatment to address the TCE source and residual contamination in the soil.

### Current Funding Status

To date, EPA has spent approximately \$8.7 million for construction work at the site.

*For more information on this site, please read the Ellis Property site information Site Profile Page at:*  
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ellis-property> .