



SUMMER 2021

Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will replace the existing system used to treat contaminated soil, called a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system, with a larger system at the Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site in Rockaway Borough, NJ. In addition, EPA will install four new wells, and inject treatment-chemicals into the wells to address the remaining contamination at Operable Unit 4 (OU4) of the site. OU4 consists of contaminated soil that act as a source for the Wall Street/East Main Street groundwater contaminated plume. Materials and chemicals will be temporarily stored on-site during this work. The work will start in August 2021 and take approximately two years to complete. During that time, EPA expects to inject the wells with treatment-chemicals up to six times, in two to three-month intervals.



Site Layout, Photo Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Past Activities

Alliant Techsystems, Inc., now known as Northrop Grumman, began operating a groundwater treatment system for the groundwater plume associated with Klockner and Klockner (K&K) in January 2006. EPA completed the cleanup design for the Wall Street/East Main Street contaminated groundwater plume at the site and began operating the groundwater extraction and treatment system in November 2012. To address the contaminant source area for the K&K portion of the site, an SVE system was constructed and operated from 2013 until 2015. The SVE system removed approximately 25 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the impacted soil. After operating the SVE system, EPA tested the soil and found that the system had met the cleanup goals. The SVE system that addresses the contaminant source area for the WS/EM portion of the groundwater plume was constructed in 2010 and is currently operating. This system will be expanded and enhanced by adding injection wells to address the remaining contamination.



Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE)

Soil vapor extraction (SVE) is a cleanup technology in which a vacuum is applied to the soil to induce the controlled flow of air and remove volatile and some semivolatile contaminants from the soil. The gas leaving the soil may be treated to recover or destroy the contaminants.

Site Background

The Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site includes three municipal water supply wells (numbered as 1, 5, and 6), which are located off of Union Street in the eastern section of Rockaway Borough. The groundwater at the municipal water supply wells was impacted primarily with tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). The three municipal water supply wells are located in an aquifer designated as the sole source aquifer for Rockaway Borough and the surrounding communities. The wells are approximately a quarter mile to the south-southeast of the Rockaway River, which runs through Rockaway Borough. Based on early site investigations, the suspected sources of the TCE and PCE contamination included industrial and commercial operations within Rockaway Borough, including the K&K facility and the WS/EM area. The K&K source area is a portion of the larger Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site where metal was shaped or machined, and rocket components were manufactured. Currently, the K&K source area is an industrial area in northwest Rockaway Borough where a metal fabrication facility and a landscaping company operate. Many activities, including dry cleaning and automotive repairs, contributed to the contamination found at the WS/EM source area which consists of several businesses in a commercial area. The Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site was placed on EPA's National Priorities List in September 1983.



Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and Trichloroethene (TCE)

PCE is a nonflammable liquid used frequently in dry cleaning and to remove grease. It is also referred to as perchloroethylene or PERC.

TCE is a nonflammable colorless liquid used as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. It is also found in adhesives, paint removers, and spot removers.

EPA Contact Information

Pat Seppi

Community Involvement Coordinator
646-369-0068
seppi.pat@epa.gov

Brian Quinn

Remedial Project Manager
212-637-4381
quinn.brian@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/superfund/rockaway-boro-wellfield
