

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Newark South Groundwater Plume (formerly Newark South Wellfield) - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #1
Newark South Groundwater Plume (formerly Newark South Wellfield)
A3XL
Newark, DE

To: R3 RRC Response Center, USEPA
Eileen Capitoli, DNREC
Michael Towle, USEPA

From: Kelley Chase, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 1/12/2017

Reporting Period: 10/5/16 through 1/12/17

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A3XL	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:		Start Date:	10/5/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

1.1.2 Site Description

The Newark South Groundwater Plume Site includes approximately 164 acres located in southeast Newark, New Castle County, Delaware. The Site is located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area.

Groundwater in the area has been found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds including tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). Investigations conducted by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) have identified several potential source areas.

The City of Newark has reported the presence of low levels of the contaminants in the untreated/raw groundwater from several of its public supply wells since 2000. The public drinking water supplied by the City is treated to remove the contaminants from the untreated/raw water and continues to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Several communities in the area receive their drinking water from SUEZ Delaware Water (formerly United Delaware Water). The water provided by SUEZ draws surface water from the White Clay & Red Clay Creeks and is not affected by the local groundwater contamination. The drinking water supplied by SUEZ meets Federal and State Drinking Water Standards.

DNREC recommended additional investigations be conducted to determine the source(s) and extent of the contamination. The State of Delaware has referred the Site to EPA for further consideration. EPA is considering the Site for potential inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of sites that are eligible for cleanup financed under the Federal Superfund program.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site includes approximately 164 acres located in southeast Newark, generally west of Route 72 (South Chapel Road), between Bellevue Road and Route 4 (East Chestnut Hill Road) in New Castle County, Delaware.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

EPA's Removal Program will evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at the Site. Vapor intrusion (VI) is the term used to describe the migration of volatile chemicals from subsurface contaminated soils and groundwater into the indoor air spaces of overlying buildings through openings in the building foundation. The chemicals may present health risks to residents if they accumulate in buildings. Common sources of VI include petroleum products, dry cleaning solvents, and other industrial solvents and degreasers including those found at the Site.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

While EPA is considering the Site for potential inclusion on the NPL, EPA Region 3 management asked the Removal Program evaluate whether VI is a concern at the Site. The OSC subsequently reviewed available information and environmental sampling data included in DNREC's 2015 Site Investigation (SI) report.

As part of the SI, 68 groundwater samples were collected from multiple depths at 15 locations. Permanent monitoring wells were installed at eight of the locations. PCE was detected in seven of the eight monitoring wells. During the SI, Delaware's Division of Public Health Office of Drinking Water sampled three municipal wells and confirmed low levels of groundwater contamination in the untreated/raw groundwater. The SI summarizes the Preliminary Assessment (PA) that was conducted at the Site by DNREC. The PA identified multiple areas of potential environmental concern in the area.

The OSC initiated a removal site evaluation in accordance with Section 300.410 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). As part of the preliminary assessment activities, the OSC conducted several site visits, met with DNREC representatives and EPA site assessment staff. The OSC also met with the EPA Region 3 vapor intrusion team and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review existing groundwater sampling data and discuss the potential for VI occurring at the Site.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

In October 2016, to assist with conducting the removal site evaluation, the OSC issued a work assignment to EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston).

In November 2016, the OSC conducted a site visit with a Weston representative. Later the same day, the OSC attended a public meeting held by DNREC. DNREC held the meeting to provide information regarding site investigations and to let the community know that Delaware has requested assistance from EPA in addressing the contamination at the Site.

In January 2017, EPA mailed out fact sheets to the surrounding community to let them know about EPA's upcoming activities.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA is planning to install new groundwater monitoring wells in commercial areas along South Chapel Street and in residential areas to the east. Efforts will focus on evaluating contamination in the shallow groundwater. Water samples will be collected from the new wells and from several existing groundwater monitoring wells. The samples will be sent to a lab and analyzed for the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The sampling results should help EPA determine whether homes and/or businesses in the area should be sampled to determine if VI is a concern.

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has given EPA permission to install groundwater monitoring wells in State right-of-ways. Weston has ordered a utility mark-out for the locations planned for the right-of-ways. EPA is also working to obtain access to install several new monitoring wells on private property.

Field activities, including well installation/construction, are anticipated to begin the last week in January.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Weston is working to secure a well driller for the installation of the monitoring wells.

Weston is preparing a field sampling plan and quality assurance/ analysis plan for EPA review.

The OSC will continue to work with DNREC during the removal site evaluation.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

On October 5, 2016, EPA issued a work assignment to START contractor to provide technical assistance to EPA in evaluating the potential for vapor intrusion at the Site.

On December 8, 2016, EPA amended the work assignment to include the installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate contamination in the shallow groundwater.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$79,965.00	\$2,782.81	\$77,182.19	96.52%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$79,965.00	\$2,782.81	\$77,182.19	96.52%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Newark
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
Delaware Division of Public Health Office of Drinking Water (DPH ODW)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) /Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.