

# Former Ronson Metals Site

Fact Sheet

Manufacturers Place, Newark City, Essex County

December 2016

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting indoor air sampling at homes and businesses in the Manufacturers Place area. This fact sheet is designed to provide updated information about the indoor air sampling and the remedial investigation associated with the former Ronson Metals Site.

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contact the  
Office of  
Assemblywoman  
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(973) 589-0713*

## Site Remediation and Waste Management Program

### Office of Community Relations

**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
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Commissioner

## Background

The Former Ronson Metals Corporation manufactured cigarette lighters and other related products. In 1989, the company closed its Newark facility on Manufacturers Place. About one dozen areas of soil contamination, as well as ground water contamination, were identified. The contaminants of concern include various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including trichloroethene (TCE), which is the primary contaminant of concern. For historical site information, please see the [December 2015 Former Ronson Metals Site Fact Sheet \[pdf\]](#). Starting in 1999, ownership of the property transferred, and eventually 19 homes and 5 commercial/industrial buildings were built on the Former Ronson Metals site.

In late 2012, NJDEP began a vapor intrusion investigation of the site. Vapor intrusion occurs when vapors from chemical compounds in the subsurface soil or ground water seep through openings in building slabs, affecting the quality of the air inside a building. NJDEP has sampled 66 properties as part of the vapor intrusion investigation. Sub-slab depressurization systems were installed at 28 properties to address elevated TCE concentrations. These systems are working properly by preventing vapors from entering overlying structures. The system, similar to a radon system, creates a vacuum beneath the slabs of buildings and ventilates the TCE vapors to the outdoor air at the roof line, making these buildings safe to occupy.

NJDEP hired H2M Architects and Engineers (H2M) to conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) of the ground water contamination. In August 2015, H2M initiated the field investigation (please see: [http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community/sites/active/essex/fmr\\_ronson\\_metals\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community/sites/active/essex/fmr_ronson_metals_presentation.pdf) for more information on the field investigation). The soil and ground water data were evaluated and it was determined that the concentrations of VOCs in ground

*(Over)*



# Former Ronson Metals Site

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water do not appear to be the source of the contaminated indoor air in the overlying structures. It is possible that soils on the former Ronson building site may be the source of the soil gas vapors.

## Current and Future Activities:

NJDEP initiated Phase 2 of the RI in 2016 with the following objectives:

- Collect samples of soil and clay cap at residential properties to evaluate whether soil contamination is the source of TCE detected in indoor air.
- Confirm the presence and assess the condition of the clay cap.
- Collect ground water samples from seven of the residential properties on the Former Ronson Metals site.

H2M requested access from eighteen property owners to conduct sampling in the outside areas of the residences that were built upon the former Ronson Metals building footprint. Seventeen property owners provided access and soil and ground water samples were collected from each. In addition, ground water samples were collected from the seven monitoring wells. This field work, along with property surveys for mapping purposes, was completed on October 28, 2016.

The analytical results are currently undergoing data validation to ensure that appropriate quality assurance and quality control procedures (QA/QC) were followed in the field when the samples were collected and in the laboratory when the samples were analyzed. The purpose of data validation is to ensure that the environmental decisions

are supported by data of known and documented quality.

Once the data is validated, H2M will combine the field data, lab data, and other physical evidence observed at the site to create a Conceptual Site Model (CSM). The CSM is then used to evaluate any on-site soil and ground water contamination, assess the condition of the clay cap, and evaluate any potential migration pathways. H2M has already started this process. Due to the large amount of data collected at each home and at the site as a whole, this process will continue into Spring 2017. Once the fully assessed data and information is available, the results will be provided to the property owners of the sampled residences.

A New Jersey-licensed land surveyor is also preparing a map that will depict locations and depths of all soil borings and all temporary and permanent ground water sampling locations. This map will be shared with the community when complete.



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**Se necessita ajuda a traduzir esta informacao por favor contacte o escritorio de Eliana Pintor Marin, atraves do telefone 973-589-0713.**

**For additional information on this investigation, please contact:**

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