

Health Consultation

POMONA OAKS RESIDENTIAL WELLS
(a/k/a POMONA OAKS WELL CONTAMINATION)

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CERCLIS NO. NJD980769350

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. The Administrator of ATSDR shall use appropriate data, risks assessments, risk evaluations and studies available from the Administrator of EPA

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Prepared by:

**Hazardous Site Health Evaluation Program
Consumer and Environmental Health Service
Division of Epidemiology, Environmental, and Occupational Health
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Under Cooperative Agreement with the
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

Background and Statement of the Issues

Site History

The Pomona Oaks Well Contamination site is a residential community consisting of approximately 200 single family homes. Prior to 1985, all of these homes depended on the use of shallow (50-60 foot) domestic wells utilizing the Cohansey Formation (depth 0-205 feet) for potable water supply. In 1982, residents complained to the Atlantic County Health Department (ACHD) regarding foul tasting well water, and subsequent investigation by the ACHD, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) confirmed ground-water contamination by volatile organic chemicals (notably benzene and 1,2-dichloroethane) at concentrations exceeding drinking water standards. In December 1982 and January 1983, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) performed sampling in 37 households in the Pomona Oaks subdivision, identifying significant volatilization of organic groundwater contaminants into residential indoor air through showering. Contamination at the site was not associated with any environmental media other than groundwater.

In August 1985, a municipal water supply was made available to residents of the Pomona Oaks subdivision and private wells were sealed. A new primary production well for the community was designed and constructed in 1988. The well was put into service in 1989. The USEPA conducted a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the site from October 1988 to March 1989. USEPA has concluded that the original contamination was the result of a singular or point source release, and the contaminants have dispersed and/or biodegraded over time. The September 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) determined that, based on the results of the RI/FS, no further action was necessary at the site because ground-water contamination no longer existed at levels constituting a public health concern.

A Public Health Assessment (PHA) for this site was prepared by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services under the ATSDR cooperative agreement, in January 1995 (1). The public health assessment concluded that the site is considered no apparent public health hazard, since the groundwater exposure pathway was eliminated in 1985. The site was considered to have presented a public health hazard in the past, exclusively on the basis of past exposure of intermediate duration to VOCs in domestic well-water, through the ingestion pathway, and through past acute duration VOC exposure via the inhalation pathway.

In 1995, the NJDHSS conducted a review of cancer cases reported to the New Jersey Cancer Registry. The Cancer Registry, operated by the NJDHSS, is a population based cancer incidence registry including the entire State of New Jersey. The study period for this investigation was January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1988. A "case" was defined as an individual who resided in Galloway Township, New Jersey, and was diagnosed with a new primary malignant cancer during the study period. The observed number of total cancer cases in Galloway Township was not found to be elevated and was found to be less than the State averages.

Discussion

Remedial activities conducted at the site by the ACDH, NJDEP, and the USEPA, specifically the introduction of a public water supply to the area in 1985, and the construction of a new production well for the subdivision in 1989, have eliminated the human exposure pathways associated with this site. Several residents expressed health concerns following the release of the 1995 PHA document. These individuals were contacted by staff from the NJDHSS asking for additional specific information relating to their concerns, and offering follow-up as applicable. No responses were made to the NJDHSS by the residents, to date, nor have any additional health concerns been expressed to the NJDHSS or the Atlantic County Health Department.

A Close Out Report, the first step in the National Priorities List (NPL) site deletion process, was signed by the EPA Regional Administrator in September 1992. A Notice of Intent to Delete was published in the Federal Register in August 1996. A Final Deletion Notice was published in the Federal Register on May 7, 1998 (2).

Conclusions

The exposure conditions at former Pomona Oaks Residential Well Contamination NPL site have not changed since the January 1995 public health assessment; therefore, the following major conclusions of that assessment remain valid:

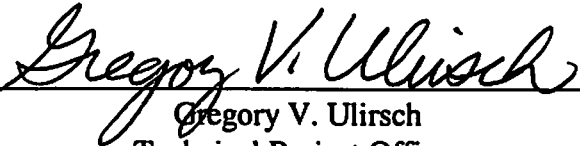
1. The installation of a public water supply to the development in 1985, and the construction of a new production well in 1989, have eliminated the human exposure pathway associated with the site, therefore the site poses no public health hazard.
2. Analysis of the New Jersey Cancer Registry data for Galloway Township indicated that the incidence rates for those cancers listed were below expected (state average) rates for the period 1979 through 1988.
3. From the information reviewed, the site is judged to have been a public health hazard in the past due to intermediate duration exposure to VOC 's via drinking water, and short - term exposure to VOC's via inhalation during showering.

Recommendation

1. None at this time.

Certification

This health consultation was prepared jointly by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) under a cooperative agreement. It is accordance with approved methodology and procedures existing at the time the health consultation was begun.



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The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC), ATSDR, has reviewed this Health Consultation and concurs with its findings.



Acting Chief, SSAB, DHAC

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Documents Reviewed

1. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Public Health Assessment for the Pomona Oaks Well Contamination site, Galloway Township, Atlantic County, NJ. January 24, 1995. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Atlanta, GA.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II.. National Priority Site Fact Sheet, Pomona Oaks Well Contamination site, Galloway Township, Atlantic County, NJ.