
HEALTH

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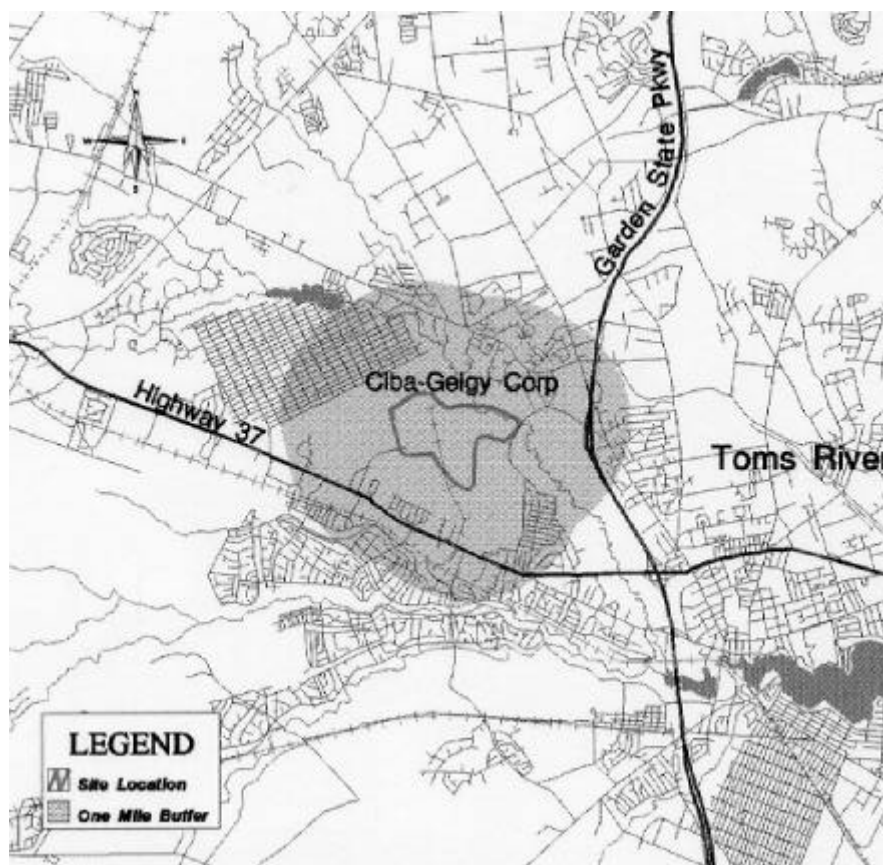
Childhood Cancer Investigation

Ciba-Geigy Health Consultation

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), conducts Health Consultations on the public health issues relating to human exposure caused by hazardous waste sites. A Health Consultation, as conducted under ATSDR protocol, is the process which provides advice on a specific public health issue related to **actual or potential human exposure to toxic materials**. This update will provide you with an overview of the Health Consultation being conducted on the Ciba-Geigy Superfund site in Dover Township, Ocean County.

Site History

The Ciba-Geigy Superfund site was an active chemical manufacturing facility that produced synthetic organic dyes, pigments, and epoxy resins from 1952 to 1990. The site is approximately 1,300 acres, of which 320 are developed. Solid and liquid wastes from manufacturing processes were disposed of on-site in areas that included a drum disposal dump and numerous lagoons and basins. Site contaminants include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and heavy metals in soil and groundwater. Treated effluent process wastewater was discharged directly into the Toms River from 1952 to 1966. Off-site migration resulted in these contaminants being found in sediment, surface water, groundwater (including private wells), and air.



From 1966 to 1991 Ciba-Geigy discharged treated groundwater and treated process waste

through a ten mile long underground pipeline to the Atlantic Ocean. However, pipeline breaks in 1984, 1988, and 1989 resulted in additional areas of off-site contamination.

Actions Planned Under the Public Health Response Plan

The NJDHSS is conducting a Health Consultation for the Ciba-Geigy site. Its purpose is to better define past and current human exposure to off-site contamination. If exposure has occurred or is occurring, the Health Consultation will attempt to determine if the exposure is sufficient to result in acute or chronic health effects. Included will be a review of toxicological data on contaminants released from Ciba-Geigy and their potential to produce carcinogenic or other effects. Synergistic or interactive effects of exposure to the contaminants will be considered as current toxicological information permits.

Additional environmental sampling will be conducted to better define a potential human exposure pathway. This will include additional testing of private potable wells and soils in areas where past pipeline breaks occurred, and sediments along the Toms River and a lake next to the Ocean County Mall.

Actions That Have Occurred to Date

The NJDHSS and ATSDR have met with the Citizens Action Committee on Childhood Cancer Cluster (CACCCC), Ocean County Health Department staff, and other established citizens groups to determine potentially impacted areas from the pipeline breaks and other likely routes of exposure. Extensive review of existing environmental data maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Ocean County Health Department is in progress. An environmental sampling plan has been developed and sampling is underway. Analytical results will be included in the Health Consultation. In addition, a toxicological review is underway at ATSDR headquarters in Atlanta.

Time Frame for Completion

It is expected that the final draft of the Ciba-Geigy Health Consultation report will be completed by this winter. When the consultation is finalized, an update will be prepared and forwarded to health care providers.

For more detailed information, please call the NJDHSS, Consumer and Environmental Health Services at (609) 984-2193.

Dover Township Childhood Cancer Investigation

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