

# Former Ronson Metals Site

Fact Sheet

Manufacturers Place, Newark City, Essex County

December 2015

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.

*For help with translating this fact sheet, please contact the Office of Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin at (973) 589-0713.*

## Site Remediation Program Office of Community Relations

**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
Governor

**KIM GUADAGNO**  
Lt. Governor

**BOB MARTIN**  
Commissioner



## Background

Ronson Metals Corporation manufactured cigarette lighters and other related products. In 1989 RCLC, Inc., formerly known as Ronson Corporation, closed its subsidiary Ronson Metals Corporation, which had been operating at the Newark facility on Manufacturers Place since the 1950s. Subsequently, approximately a dozen areas of soil contamination were identified, as well as ground water contaminated with various volatile organic compounds including trichloroethene (TCE), which is the main contaminant of concern. Records indicate that Ronson (or its associated companies) appears to have addressed the soil contamination, but the ground water investigation/remediation was never completed.

In three separate transactions starting in 1999, ownership of portions of the property transferred and redevelopment of the property began. Eventually, the former Ronson property was redeveloped with 19 homes and another five commercial/industrial buildings.

In late 2012, NJDEP staff reviewed the Ronson case files as part of a systematic review of outstanding cases. The records indicated that from 1995 to 1997 elevated concentrations of TCE were detected in several ground water samples collected from monitoring wells installed at the site. After conducting a site visit and discovering that portions of the site had been redeveloped into residences, NJDEP initiated a vapor intrusion investigation.

Vapor intrusion is a relatively new concern that was not investigated routinely until 2005, years after the homes on Manufacturers Place were built. Vapor intrusion occurs when vapors from chemical compounds in the subsurface soil or ground water seep through cracks and holes in building slabs, affecting the quality of the air inside a home or business.

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## Current and Future Activities

Due to the presence of contaminated ground water in the area of Manufacturers Place, NJDEP continues the vapor intrusion investigation by conducting indoor air sampling to determine if TCE vapors are affecting the indoor air quality of the homes and commercial structures in the area.

NJDEP has collected indoor air samples at 59 locations. NJDEP compares indoor air concentrations to the screening levels to determine whether additional investigation or mitigation is needed. NJDEP has expanded the area of indoor air sampling to properties on Lentz Avenue. NJDEP is again asking the residents of Lentz Avenue to allow us to sample the indoor air in their buildings.

To address the properties that revealed elevated TCE concentrations, NJDEP has installed sub-slab depressurization systems in 28 locations. These systems are effective at preventing vapors from entering overlying structures by creating a vacuum beneath the slabs of the buildings and ventilating the TCE vapors to the atmosphere at the roof line. NJDEP will install additional sub-slab depressurization systems, as needed.

NJDEP has hired H2M Architects and Engineers (H2M) to conduct a remedial investigation (RI) of the ground water contamination and potential vapor intrusion in the area. The purpose of the RI is to delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of the contamination by collecting, analyzing and evaluating the results of environmental samples collected in the

area. In August 2015, H2M began investigative field work by installing temporary ground water monitoring wells and additional soil gas borings. Based on this data, H2M installed five permanent ground water monitoring wells which were sampled during the first week of November. Preliminary results have been received and are currently undergoing a quality assurance evaluation which should be completed by late December. If the data is acceptable, NJDEP will conduct an evaluation of all the data collected to determine what additional investigation is necessary. The preliminary results generally show lower TCE levels than were expected.

## Health Concerns

For health questions, please contact the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Indoor Environments Program at 609-826-4920. NJDOH can provide you and your physicians with contact information for experts in the field of environmental health.



**For more information on this cleanup,  
please contact:**

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