

Former Jerry's Cleaners Site

Borough of Waldwick, Bergen County

January 2010

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has contracted Kleinfelder East, Inc. (Kleinfelder) to perform a Remedial Investigation (RI) of the soil and groundwater at the Former Jerry's Cleaners site (PI: 195250) located at 24 East Prospect Street (Block: 18.01, Lot: 37.07), in the Borough of Waldwick, Bergen County.

Site History

In 1984, tetrachloroethene (PCE) contamination was detected in the Waldwick Borough Well No. 8 located on Dora Avenue at levels exceeding the New Jersey Drinking Water Standard of 1 part per billion (ppb). PCE is a volatile organic chemical (VOC) commonly used as a dry cleaning solvent and degreasing agent. Because the concentration of PCE exceeded 1 ppb, the public well was shut down and subsequently sealed.

NJDEP initiated an investigation to determine the source of the PCE contamination in Waldwick Borough Well No. 8. The former Jerry's Cleaners site, located at 24 East Prospect Street, was identified as a potential source of the PCE contamination in the public well. NJDEP collected ground water samples at the former Jerry's Cleaners site in January 2003 which revealed elevated levels of PCE, trichloroethene (TCE), and cis-1,2-dichloroethene in the ground water. The highest concentrations of PCE, TCE and cis-1,2-dichloroethene detected at the site were 34,117 ppb, 11,000 ppb and 35,000 ppb, respectively. The NJDEP Ground Water Remediation Standards for PCE, TCE and cis-1,2-dichloroethene are 1 ppb, 1 ppb and 70 ppb, respectively.

Remedial Investigation (RI)

NJDEP has partially characterized the extent of soil and ground water contamination at the former Jerry's Cleaners site through previous investigations. The primary objectives of this RI include:

- Confirmation of contaminant source area(s)
- Delineation of the horizontal and vertical extent of soil and ground water impacts at the site and the surrounding properties
- Identification of potential vapor intrusion pathways
- Evaluation of impacts to potential human health and ecological receptors

Kleinfelder, under contract to the NJDEP, will prepare a Remedial Investigation Report (RIR) describing site activities and sampling results. NJDEP will review the RIR and upon approval the report will be made available to the public.

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(Over)

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Field Activities

In order to completely characterize the nature and extent of the contamination at the site, NJDEP will collect and evaluate environmental samples from the former Jerry's Cleaners site. Field activities will include the installation of soil borings with the collection of soil samples and the construction and sampling of temporary ground water sample points. Based on the initial soil and ground water sampling results, NJDEP will install permanent ground water monitoring wells. The permanent monitoring wells will be sampled at least twice after installation.

All soil and ground water samples will be analyzed and compared to the applicable NJDEP remediation standards.

In addition to the soil and ground water investigation, a receptor evaluation and a baseline ecological evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation (N.J.A.C. 7:26E).

Fieldwork is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2010 and is expected to be completed in approximately 18 months.

Vapor Intrusion Assessment

After the extent of groundwater and soil contamination has been delineated, NJDEP will assess the potential for vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion occurs when fumes from contaminated soil or ground water seep through cracks and holes in foundations or slabs of nearby buildings and accumulate in basements, crawl spaces, or living areas.

Contingent upon the results of the ground water sampling, an assessment of the potential for vapor intrusion into commercial buildings, residential homes and any other building will be conducted. The vapor intrusion investigation will evaluate the indoor air quality at each sampled property and identify potential or actual vapor intrusion pathways, as applicable. Subsurface vapor samples may also be collected adjacent to or beneath the buildings. All samples will be compared to applicable NJDEP screening levels. Pending the results of the initial vapor intrusion investigation, additional residential and commercial properties may also be investigated. All property owners will be notified in advance of sampling activities.

NJDEP will provide a copy of all environmental reports to the Borough of Waldwick upon the request of the municipality.

* For more information on vapor intrusion, please visit:
http://nj.gov/dep/srp/guidance/vaporintrusion/indoor_air.htm

* For frequently asked questions about specific contaminants, please visit: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html>

