

Syncon Resins

77 Jacobus Avenue Kearny Town Hudson County

BLOCK: 289 **LOTS:** 12, 13, 13R

Community Relations Coordinator: Heather Swartz (609) 984-7135

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Syncon Resins manufactured paint, varnish and resins at this site until 1982. It is located in a coastal management area and borders the Passaic River. The facility consisted of 13 buildings, numerous large storage vessels and tanks and two unlined wastewater lagoons. At the time operations ceased, approximately 13,000 55-gallon drums of various chemicals were being stored at the site, most of which were in poor condition and leaking. USEPA added the Syncon Resins facility to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites (NPL) in 1983. The following year NJDEP implemented an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to remove and dispose of all of the drums. Between 1984 and 1986, NJDEP conducted a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) that revealed extensive contamination in the soil, ground water and building, and large volumes of liquid and solid chemical wastes in the various storage vessels and tanks at the site. USEPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) with NJDEP concurrence in 1986 that required the following remedial actions: 1) removal of the lagoon liquids and sediments and the contents of the storage vessels and tanks; 2) excavation and disposal of the grossly contaminated soil and decontamination of the buildings and other site structures; 3) installation of an on-site remediation system to extract and treat the contaminated ground water; and 4) treatment of residual soil contamination by soil flushing. In 1989, NJDEP conducted a second IRM to remove thousands of small containers of chemicals from the on-site laboratory and initiated the remedial actions specified in the ROD. By 1992, NJDEP had removed the lagoon liquids and other wastes from the site, decontaminated the buildings and tanks, excavated and removed the grossly contaminated soil and completed construction of a soil flushing/ground water treatment system. These actions were subsequently designated Operable Unit 1 (OU1).

While operation of the soil flushing/ground water treatment system was underway, NJDEP conducted supplemental studies that revealed highly contaminated soil and ground water at the southwestern portion of the plant were not being adequately addressed by the existing system. In 2000, USEPA issued a ROD for the southwestern portion of the site, which was designated OU2. The ROD requires excavation of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of heavily contaminated soil from a 2.5 acre area, followed by treatment and disposal of drained free product from the soil, improvement of the subsurface drainage at the southwestern portion of the site, and backfilling the excavation with the drained soil after nutrients have been added to enhance biodegradation of the residual organic contaminants. These actions are expected to significantly improve the effectiveness of the soil flushing/ground water treatment system and expedite cleanup of the site. The ROD also requires establishment of a Deed Notice or other institutional controls to ensure that the property is used for industrial or commercial purposes only. NJDEP plans to begin the Remedial Design for the OU2 remedial action in 2003.