

Devon Lane Ground Water Contamination

Devon Lane

Branchburg Township Somerset County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Office of Community Relations (OCR): (609) 984-3081 | (800) 253-5647

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

The Devon Lane Ground Water Contamination Site is located in the area of Devon Lane in Branchburg, Somerset County. In January 2003 the Township of Branchburg Board of Health received a report that a potable well was tested in the area of Devon Lane and trichloroethene (TCE) was detected at levels exceeding New Jersey Drinking Water Standards. TCE is a colorless liquid used extensively as a solvent in the degreasing of fabricated metal parts. It may be found in printing inks, varnishes, paints, lacquers, adhesives, spot removers, rug cleaners and disinfectants. The Maximum Contaminant Levels, or Safe Drinking Water Standard for this contaminant is 1 part per billion (1 ppb) or 1 microgram per liter (1 ug/L). In response, the Branchburg Board of Health sampled approximately nine private potable wells in the area in September 2003 and the results revealed five private potable wells were contaminated with TCE at levels exceeding New Jersey Drinking Water Standards. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was notified of the situation on January 4, 2004 and expanded sampling in the area to include 20 additional private wells. These wells were sampled on May 5, 2004 and the results revealed that none of the constituents analyzed for were detected in any of these potable water samples.

The affected homeowners were notified and Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems were installed on the affected wells with funds provided by NJDEP to supply potable water for the residents. The source of the contamination is unknown. The Remedial Response Element has delineated the Currently Known Extent (CKE) of the potable well contamination and is evaluating long-term water supply alternatives for the area.

For further information, contact Karen Kloo
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or write
Ms. Kloo at the Office of Community Relations
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