

Federal Creosote Site

Manville, Somerset County

A Citizen's Guide to the Public Health Assessment

July 2000

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has released for public comment a Public Health Assessment on the Federal Creosote site. The Public Health Assessment evaluates actual and potential human exposures to contaminants measured on the residential portion of the Federal Creosote site. A Public Comment Draft is published so that citizens may provide additional concerns or comments before the Health Assessment is finalized. This Citizen's Guide is a summary of the July 10, 2000 Public Health Assessment. For a copy of the complete document please contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this Citizen's Guide.

What is the present condition of the Federal Creosote site?

The Federal Creosote site is located in Manville, Somerset County, and consists of a 35 acre housing development and an adjacent 15 acre shopping/commercial area. Development in these two areas occurred in the early to mid 1960s, over a former creosote manufacturing facility. Creosote in canals and lagoons had not been removed, but was covered with fill prior to the site's development.

The residential area, known as the Claremont Development, includes 137 houses. Creosote was initially found in a residence in April 1996. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and later the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) tested indoor air, surface and sub-surface soil, and groundwater, to measure the extent of contamination. The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) reviewed environmental data and concerns among area residents to identify potential human exposure or health effects from site contaminants. The USEPA removed or covered surface soil that contained polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs, a component of creosote) at nineteen properties. They also identified approximately 28 properties located directly over the former lagoons and canals, and 54 properties with soil contamination. Remediation of those properties will begin later this year.

Groundwater testing is ongoing to ensure that the public water supplies are not impacted by the site.



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What do the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry conclude about the site?

The ATSDR has developed five health consultations, which form the basis of this Public Health Assessment. The ATSDR and the NJDHSS conclude the following about the Federal Creosote site:

- exposures to surface soil represent no apparent public health hazard (that is, exposures were not likely to cause health effects);
- exposure to sub-surface soil does not pose a health risk as long as the soil is not disturbed;
- exposure to site contaminants through ingestion of garden produce represents no apparent public health hazard;
- the USEPA's plan to relocate residents of certain properties is appropriate in order to remove contaminated sub-surface soil.

The ATSDR and the NJDHSS also recommend that residents continue to avoid exposure to sub-surface soil, and that the USEPA continue its plans to remove sub-surface soil and source material from the site.

Where can I get more information about this site or other environmental health issues?

For further information, or a copy of the complete health assessment for this site, please contact:

Somerville Health Department
West End Avenue Municipal Building
Somerville, New Jersey 08876-0399
(908)704-6996

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health Services
PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
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The document may also be found at our website at www.state.nj.us/health

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 2
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All comments must be provided to the NJDHSS in writing, and postmarked by August 21, 2000.