

# Wilson Avenue School

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Newark, Essex County

August, 2010

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## Overview

This summer the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) completed investigation and cleanup activities at the Wilson Avenue School to address odors and vapor issues coming from water flooding into the school. Investigations revealed the ground water beneath an area of the school was contaminated with gasoline from an unknown source. NJDEP installed a new sump pump system to prevent such flooding from occurring in the future. The sump pumps have vapor extraction systems included to prevent vapors from the contaminated ground water from entering the building. Testing conducted after this system was installed and operating showed that all levels of contaminants are below NJDEP action levels throughout the entire school.

## Wilson School Cleanup Activities

NJDEP's contractor, Handex, conducted all remediation work at the school with NJDEP oversight. The work included:

- Upgrade of the existing sump pumps in the school (clean out of sumps, increase horsepower, install new pumps).
- Installation of a sub-slab ventilation system around each pump.
- Collection of indoor air samples after the system was operating to determine the effectiveness of venting the sumps.
- Additional sampling and routine maintenance activities to ensure the vacuum around the sumps is being maintained.

## Unknown Source Investigation

Sampling of ground water surrounding the school was conducted by NJDEP.

- Approximately 60 ground water samples were taken from 30 locations around the school.
- A small area of ground water contamination was confirmed.
- No source of the ground water contamination was found.

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*Chris Christie*  
Governor

*Kim Guadagno*  
Lt. Governor

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Site Remediation Program**  
**Trenton, NJ 08625**  
[www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community](http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community)

*Bob Martin*  
Commissioner



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## Vapor Intrusion Investigation

- NJDEP conducted sampling at 11 properties surrounding the Wilson Avenue School representing where vapor intrusion could be occurring.
- Potential vapor intrusion was found to be of concern at one property adjacent to the school. Follow-up actions are being conducted by NJDEP.

## Next Steps

A ground water treatment system is being installed around the school building to reduce the existing contamination over time. Ground water will be extracted, treated, then discharged to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

NJDEP will conduct another round of indoor air sampling in the winter at the school to confirm that the levels do remain below action levels.

NJDEP and their contractor will maintain the vapor intrusion system and ground water treatment system.

***Any concerns or questions about the investigation may be directed to Mindy Mumford of the NJDEP at (800) 253-5647 or (609) 777-1976.***

Information will also be made available at:

- [www.nj.gov/dep/srp](http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp)
- The Newark Public Library  
Van Buren Branch  
140 Van Buren Street  
Newark, NJ 07105

In case of emergency call 911 or the DEP hotline at 800-WARN DEP (800-927-6337).