

Federal Creosote Company

Valerie Drive & East Camplain Road

Manville Borough Somerset County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Community Relations Coordinator: Mindy Mumford (609) 777-1976

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

A wood treatment facility operated at this site between 1910 and 1957. Activities at Federal Creosote Company entailed creosoting railroad ties and telephone poles. The excess creosote and creosote-contaminated residues were discharged into trenches and lagoons. These areas were covered with fill material after operations ceased. The Rustic Mall shopping center and the Claremont Development, a residential development consisting of 137 single-family homes, were constructed on the site in the 1960s. In 1997, a sink hole developed around a sewer pipe at the development. Excavation around the pipe revealed the presence of a tar-like substance that was identified as creosote. USEPA and NJDEP subsequently determined there were two former creosote lagoons, drainage trenches and a drip area at the development. Indoor air testing showed that the creosote in the soil was not adversely affecting indoor air quality at the homes. In 1997, USEPA began a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to delineate the contamination in the soil and ground water and evaluate cleanup alternatives. USEPA added the Federal Creosote Company to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites (NPL) in 1999. Based on the initial findings of the RI/FS, USEPA divided the investigation and cleanup of the site into three Operable Units (OU). OU1 encompasses the former lagoon and canal areas, where the highest levels of creosote contamination are present in the soil. OU2 encompasses other areas of the development where concentrations of creosote are lower than at OU1 but still exceed NJDEP's soil cleanup criteria. OU3 addresses contaminated soil at the Rustic Mall and the ground water. USEPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) with NJDEP concurrence for OU1 in 1999. The ROD required purchasing and demolishing approximately 19 homes, excavating the subsurface contaminated soil at the properties, treating and disposing of the soil at an off-site facility, and backfilling the excavations with clean soil. This work was begun in 2000 and is still underway. To date, 17 homes have been demolished and the soil from these properties remediated. In 2000, USEPA issued a ROD with NJDEP concurrence for OU2 that required excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated surface soil at approximately 54 residential properties. The Remedial Design for OU2 was completed in 2002 and soil removal activities at this area are underway. Approximately 135,000 tons of creosote contaminated soil have been removed from the OU1 and OU2 areas since remedial activities began. USEPA issued a ROD with NJDEP concurrence for OU3 in 2002. The ROD also required excavation and disposal of contaminated surface soil at the Rustic Mall, as well as long-term monitoring of contaminants in the ground water. The Remedial Design for OU3 is underway and expected to be complete in 2003.