



## EPA TO SAMPLE WELLS IN AREAS OF FRANKLIN AND GREENWICH TWPS. AS PART OF INVESTIGATION OF POHATCONG VALLEY SITE.

Community Update

February 2009

- Due to the complexity of the Pohatcong Valley site, EPA has divided it into 3 phases or Operable Units (OUs).
- EPA is conducting a phased investigation of the Site to determine the nature and extent of the chemicals of concern in groundwater at the Site which are tetrachloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE).
- EPA will continue to sample wells in parts of Franklin and Greenwich Townships to see if Site contamination is impacting residential drinking water wells.
- EPA will be asking residents whose wells might be impacted to sign an access agreement giving the Agency permission to collect water samples.

As part of the phased ongoing investigation of the Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site (Site), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to sample residential wells in parts of Franklin and Greenwich Townships to determine if the Site-related contaminants, tetrachloroethylene and perchloroethylene (known as TCE and PCE respectively), are affecting drinking wells in the OU2 area. This investigation is part of EPA's Operable Unit 2 (OU2). An explanation of EPA's Site investigations will be explained more fully in this Update.

During March 2008, EPA sampled a limited number of residential wells in the two townships and found several wells impacted by the Site. EPA referred this information to the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Spill Fund for the installation of portable external treatment systems (POETS). Based on the results of the sampling conducted in 2008, EPA will survey and sample additional residential wells that may also be impacted.

### SITE HISTORY

The Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund site involves primarily TCE and PCE contamination of the Kittatiny Limestone Aquifer underlying the Pohatcong Valley. The entire site area is approximately 9 miles long by 2 miles wide. Based on available data and various studies, EPA has identified the possible sources of Site contaminants in the Borough of Washington believed to be responsible. L&L Dry Cleaners, Modern Valet Service, and a defunct Vacuum Tube Company that was called Tung Sol Tubing are believed to have

**If you would like more information about the Site, please contact the following people:**

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**Site-related documents are available at the following repositories:**

**Warren City, Dept. of Health  
Oxford, NJ 07863**

**Kevin Cavotta, Health Officer  
908.475.7960 phone  
908.475.7964 fax**

**US EPA Region 2 Office  
290 Broadway  
NY, NY 10007 OR**

**Our website:**

**[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/pohatcong](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/pohatcong)**

caused the PCE contamination. In addition, Pechiney Plastics Packaging (formerly American National Can), has been named by EPA as a Potentially Responsible Party responsible for the TCE contamination.

#### **OPERABLE UNITS (OUs)**

Due to the size and complexity of the Site, EPA divided it into 3 phases or Operable Units (OUs). The following information is a brief summary of work that has or will be performed in each OU.

For more information, please visit our website, the document repositories, or get in touch with the persons whose names and contact information appear to the left.

#### **OU1 - ACTIONS TO DATE**

OU1 includes portions of Washington Borough, Washington Township and Franklin Township up to the Village of Broadway, at approximately Asbury Broadway Road.

EPA conducted an extensive investigation between 1999 and 2005. During this investigation, groundwater, soil and sediment sampling was performed. In August 2005, EPA issued a Proposed Plan to the public and opened a public comment period. EPA selected a cleanup remedy and issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in July 2006 which called for treating, extracting, and reinjecting contaminated groundwater in the TCE and PCE hotspot areas, the hookup of residences on wells to the public water supply, and sealing open private wells.

EPA with the U.S. Corps of Engineers has begun the remedial design to address the PCE groundwater contamination. The remedial design to address the TCE groundwater is also underway by the potentially responsible party, with EPA oversight.

#### **OU2— ACTIONS TO DATE**

Between 2004 and the present, EPA has been conducting an investigation in the downgradient OU2 Study Area. Briefly: seven groundwater monitoring wells were installed; approximately 85 groundwater, sediment, and surface water samples were collected, 29 buildings and residences were sampled for vapor intrusion, with more than 200 samples collected.



EPA has been conducting vapor intrusion studies in the OU1 and OU2 areas. To date, EPA has installed vapor mitigation systems in two properties that have been impacted by vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion studies are ongoing.

In Spring 2008, EPA sampled a limited number of residential wells in the OU2 area. Several of the wells sampled were found to be impacted by Site related contamination at concentrations above the state drinking water standard of one part per billion, and were referred to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Spill Fund for the installation of potable external treatment systems (POETs). Based on these results, EPA plans to sample additional residential wells in phases in 2009.

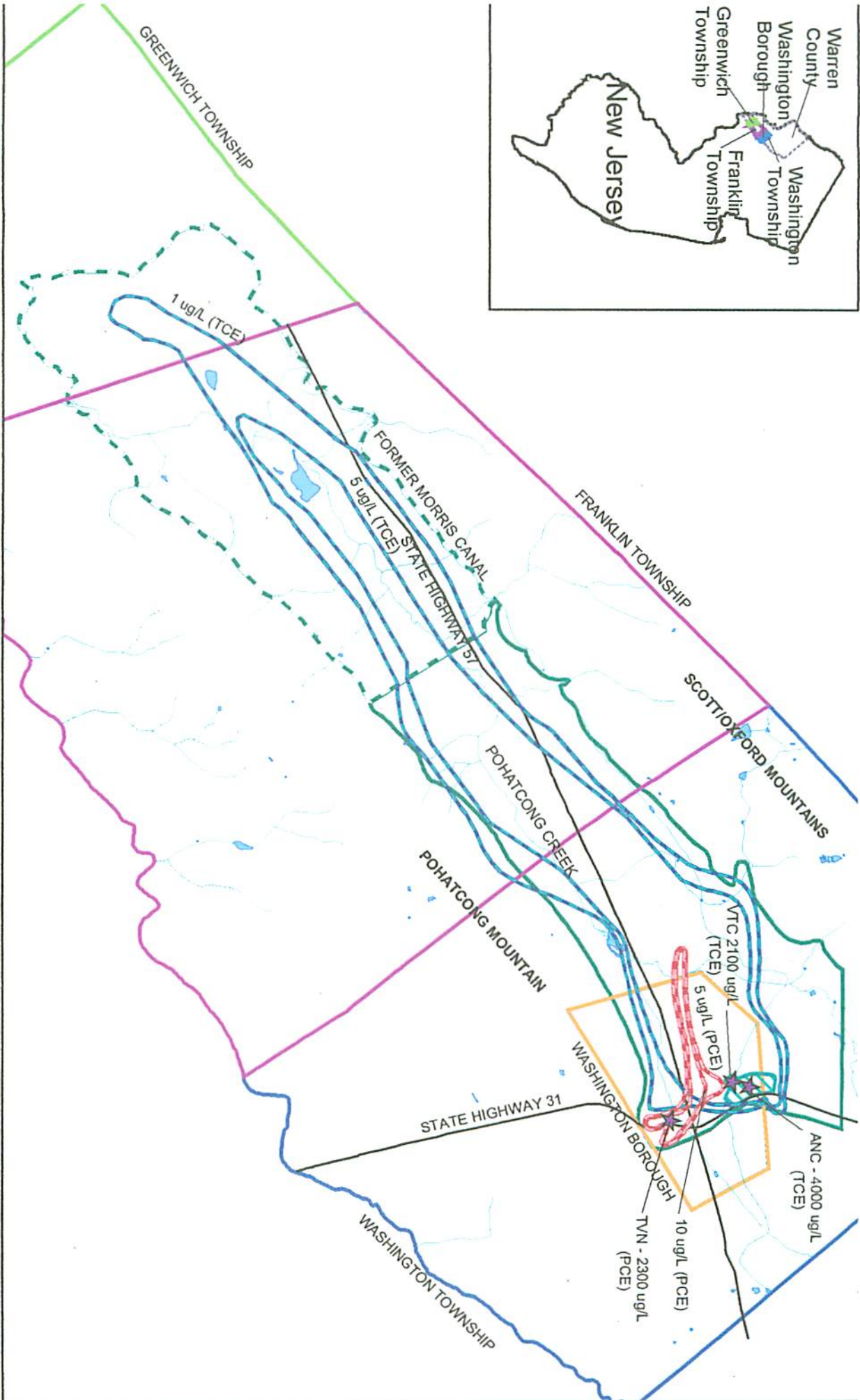
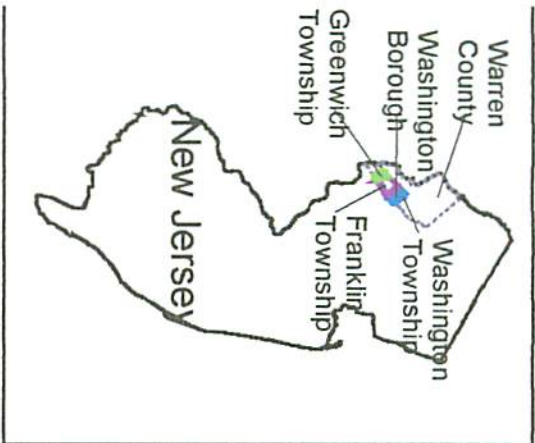
The NJDEP has been providing POETS to residences where TCE levels have been detected and reported to the NJDEP, at concentrations above the state drinking water standard of one part per billion. This OU2 work is expected to be completed later this year.

### **OU3**

The OU3 area is entirely within Washington Borough and includes the TCE contaminated source areas. This area was investigated by EPA during the OU1 phase of work, but it was not fully characterized and defined. The purpose of this investigation is to determine the nature and extent of TCE contaminated source material so EPA can determine an appropriate cleanup action. Work plans are currently being developed for the OU3 area. EPA expects to begin the OU3 field investigation later in 2009.

Much more information is available about the Site and its 3 OUs. Please refer to EPA's website, visit the repositories and call us if you have questions.

The map on the reverse side shows the OU1, OU2, and OU3 Study Areas.



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- █ PCE Isoconcentration (Approximate Location)
- █ TCE Isoconcentration (Approximate Location)
- Road Centerlines
- Waterways
- █ Franklin Township
- █ Washington Borough
- █ Washington Township
- █ Greenwich Township
- █ Pohatcong OU1 Study Area
- █ Pohatcong OU2 Study Area
- █ Pohatcong OU3 Study Area
- █ Groundwater Sample Point

**Note:**  
 VTC = Vikon Tile Corporation  
 ANC = American National Can (PPPI)  
 TVN = Tung Sol Tubing



Figure 1  
 Pohatcong Valley Groundwater  
 Contamination Site  
 Distribution of TCE and PCE Plumes

