

Suffern Village Well Field

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980780878

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 20

Rockland
Village of Suffern

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/10/1984
Final Date: 6/1/1986
Deletion Date: 5/28/1993

Site Description

The Suffern Village Well Field site covers 30 acres in the Village of Suffern. The Village operates four production wells that provide water to approximately 12,000 people at a rate of almost 2 million gallons per day. In 1978, the State detected trichloroethane, a volatile organic compound (VOC), in the municipal water distribution system. The Tempcon Corporation, a small oil burner reconditioning business, was identified as the source of the contamination. The company is located 2,500 feet uphill of the well field. Until 1979, the company used a seepage disposal pit and trichloroethane based solvents. All of the residents in the area use municipally-supplied water. The well field is adjacent to the Ramapo River.

Site Responsibility: This site has been addressed through Federal and State actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater was contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethane, and lesser amounts of dichloroethane and naphthalene. Soils also were contaminated with VOCs. The Remedial Investigation (RI) and risk assessment indicated that none of the threats were significant enough to warrant remedial action.

Cleanup Approach

The site was addressed in two phases, namely immediate actions and, a second phase, focusing on determining the need for long-term remediation of the site.

Response Action Summary

Immediate Actions: In 1979, the contaminated soil located at the Tempcon facility was excavated, aerated, and then backfilled. In 1979, the Village installed a system to remove pollutants in the municipal water supply by exposing the water to air to evaporate contaminants. This system was operated intermittently as needed and has been taken out of service.

Entire Site: The State completed an investigation of the site contamination in 1987. Based on the study results, the EPA decided, with State concurrence, that due to the presence of only low levels of contaminants, and predicted low levels in the future, that no further cleanup actions were warranted. The State has been monitoring the site to confirm the validity of this decision. As a result of the first year monitoring program, it was decided that the site could be considered for deletion from the National Priorities List. A Notice of Deletion was published in the Federal Register on May 28, 1993. In September 1998, EPA conducted a Five-Year Review to ensure that the remedy remains protective of public health and the environment. The Review found that the Site remains protective of human health and the environment; there is no remaining source of hazardous waste contamination at this Site; no further monitoring is necessary at this Site; and, no further five-year reviews are necessary.

Site Facts: As a result of new State drinking water quality standards, the Village installed an activated carbon treatment system at the wellfield in 1990.

Cleanup Progress

The cleanup actions at the Suffern Village Well Field site have been completed to both the EPA's and New York State's satisfaction as being protective of both the public health and the environment.

Prior to listing the site, the contaminated soil at the Tempcon facility was excavated, aerated, and then backfilled; the Village also installed a system to strip the volatiles from the water prior to distribution.

Subsequent to the issuance of a No Further Action ROD, the Village installed an activated carbon/manganese filtration system to comply with post-ROD changes to the State drinking water standards; the system is no longer in use because levels of VOCs have dropped below drinking water standards at the well-head and in the monitoring wells in the wellfield.

The site was deemed "construction complete" on September 4, 1992. The site was deleted from the NPL on May 28, 1993.

Site Repositories

Suffern Village Hall, 61 Washington Avenue, Suffern, New York 10901;

U.S. EPA, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007