



# Community Update

US EPA South Jersey Clothing Company/Garden State Cleaners Superfund Site  
Minotola, New Jersey

August 2005

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## What is Superfund?

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, better known as Superfund, was enacted by Congress in 1980 to clean up the nation's hazardous waste sites.

Sites placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) are eligible for federal funds to address long-term cleanup. The SJCC/GSC site was added to the Superfund list in 1989.

## Why is SJCC/GSC contaminated?

SJCC used to make military uniforms and as part of the manufacturing processes the uniforms were treated in a dry cleaning unit that used trichloroethylene (TCE).

## EPA optimizing efficiency of Buena Borough Superfund site cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to take action to optimize the efficiency of the cleanup of the South Jersey Clothing Company/Garden State Cleaners Superfund site (SJCC/GSC). EPA will be installing new extraction, injection and monitoring wells as well as completing the survey of Blackwater Branch and testing an alternative discharge system.

### New wells to be hooked up

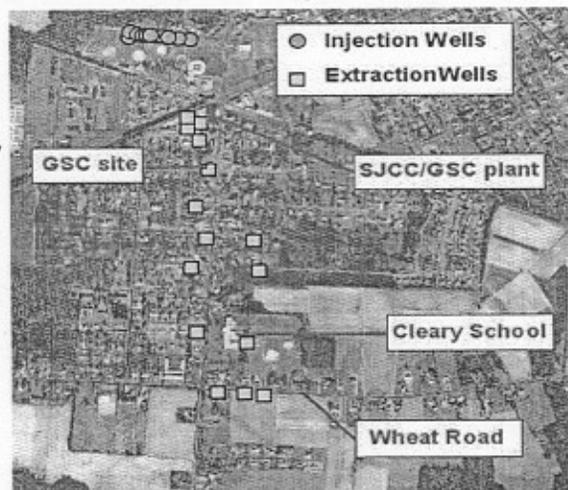
Nine of the plant's 12 injection wells are clogged with bacterial growth. This clogging has caused the treatment plant to operate at about 32% of its capacity. However, the bacteria is being treated with chlorine and appears to have stabilized.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under EPA oversight installed six new injection wells in 2003. The six wells will be hooked up to the current system in summer 2005 and will increase the overall capacity of the plant.

Due to the decreased treatment rates at the plant, the plume of contamination is continuing to migrate down gradient of the sites. In order to capture the contaminant plume, EPA will be installing additional extraction wells. The first round of installations (three wells), is expected to begin Summer 2005. Proposed locations of the extraction wells are: 1) behind the Cleary School, 2) in the vicinity of the southeast corner of Central and Martinelli Avenues, and 3) Louis Drive. EPA expects to begin the second round of extraction well installations in 2006.

### Blackwater Branch survey to begin

A survey is being conducted to determine whether or not Blackwater Branch and Blackwater Pond could handle a potential discharge of 600 gallons per minute (GPM) of clean treatment plant effluent, and if so, where would the optimal discharge point be located.



Map of current injection and extraction well system

The survey will be conducted entirely on the Green Acres tract of land along Blackwater Branch, immediately east of Brewster Road and to the downstream end of Blackwater Pond.

### Injection Trench Pilot Study

An alternative to discharging plant effluent to the Blackwater Branch is to reinject it through horizontal injection trenches. These trenches are potentially capable of accepting high volumes of water while eliminating any possibility of flooding nearby streams.

The USACE has tested this discharge alternative by constructing a horizontal underground discharge pipe into which water would be pumped and allowed to infiltrate into the aquifer. The test was conducted near the existing injection well field and is lasted about three weeks. Test results are currently undergoing review.

### How can I stay informed?

EPA will keep the community informed in a variety of ways:

- Maintain communication with borough officials;
- Periodic Community Updates to the public;
- Public meetings to present findings;
- Periodic mailings of fact sheets;
- Informal information sessions to answer questions from the community
- Establishment of an information repository at the Buena Borough Municipal Building, Clerk's Office

Notices of public meetings and information sessions will be published in a local newspaper.

## Why is SJCCIGSC contaminated?(cont'd)

The TCE-contaminated wastewater and sludge that were generated as part of the operations were routinely discharged onto the ground behind the process building and along the adjacent railroad tracks.

Garden State Cleaners (GSC) is a commercial dry cleaning facility that has been operating since 1969. In 1984, an investigation of GSC by the NJDEP detected high levels of the volatile organic compounds (VOCs), tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and TCE in soils below a steam discharge pipe.

### Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) -

TAG grants provide money for activities that help your community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. You can contact:

Carol Hemington  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
Phone: 212-637-3420



SJCC/GSC Water Treatment Plant

### EPA's past activities at the SJCCIGSC Superfund site

Based on the results of EPA's 1989 remedial investigation of SJCC/GSC, a remedy was chosen to address the contamination at the site. The contaminated soils were treated in place using a soil vapor extraction process, which removes chemicals in the form of vapors from soils by applying a vacuum.

The contaminated soil cleanup was completed in February 2001. The groundwater treatment system has been operating since February 1999.

The contaminated groundwater is being pumped to the treatment plant where it is cleaned and reinjected back into the aquifer.

## Is the site a danger to my health?

The residential properties that lie within the affected and estimated down gradient plume are connected to the public water supply system. However, some residences that are outside of the estimated plume (further down gradient) are not connected to the public water supply. The residential wells, in this area, that are not connected to the public water supply system are currently being monitored.

At this time, the results of the residential well sampling show that most of the wells are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCLs). There are presently two residential wells that exceed the MCLs; however, those homes were provided with treatment systems. If any other wells are found to exceed the MCLs, the residence(s) will be provided a treatment option.

### EPA Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a public liaison as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express concerns, or register complaints about Superfund. The public liaison for EPA's Region 2 office is: George H. Zachos, U.S. EPA, Region 2, 2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211, Edison, New Jersey 08837, (732) 321-6621, Toll-free (888) 283-7626.

## Want more information? Here are 3 ways to get what you need.

### 1 Call

EPA personnel will be happy to answer your questions or add you to the permanent site mailing list.

Contact:

- Natalie Loney  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 26th Fl.  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 637-3639  
loney.natalie@epa.gov

- Tanya Mitchell  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Fl  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 637-4362  
mitchell.tanya@epa.gov

### 2 Read

Information repositories, containing all of the site-related documents, will be located in an accessible area for the public to review. The repository is located at:

Borough of Buena Municipal Building  
Clerk's Office  
616 Central Ave  
Minotola, NJ  
Office Hours: Monday Through Friday  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

### 3 Surf

EPA has information on the Superfund process, the South Jersey Clothing Company/Garden State Cleaners site and other hazardous waste sites in New Jersey on our website at:

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