



# Community Update on the DuPont Pompton Lakes Works Site

Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

March 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) and partnering health agencies to ensure that contamination from the DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site is properly addressed and that people living in the community are protected, informed and involved in important site cleanup decisions. The most important step that residents within the vapor mitigation area (sometimes referred to as the “plume area” or “shallow ground water contamination plume area”) can take to protect their health is to have a vapor mitigation system installed as soon as possible. Vapor mitigation systems are very effective at preventing potential exposure to the chemical vapors that can enter a home from underlying ground water contaminants. To schedule or ask questions about installing a system, contact either Mindy Mumford (NJ DEP) at (609) 777-1976 or David Kluesner (EPA) at (212) 637-3653.

## EPA Begins Inspections of Vapor Mitigation Systems

Earlier this month EPA began a program to inspect vapor mitigation systems of residents located within the shallow ground water contamination plume area of Pompton Lakes. While EPA and NJ DEP believe that the vapor mitigation systems are functioning properly, we have received comments from some within the Pompton Lakes community that there could be problems with some of the systems installed by DuPont’s contractor, O’Brien & Gere. Therefore, in order to be responsive to community concerns and reassure the community that their health is being protected, EPA has contracted with Langan Engineering, out of Elmwood Park, New Jersey, to inspect vapor mitigation systems to determine if they have been properly designed and installed and are operating effectively. Both previously installed systems and newly installed systems are included in this inspection program. To schedule an inspection, residents should contact EPA’s Community Liaison, David Kluesner, by either calling (212) 637-3653 or sending an email to [kluesner.dave@epa.gov](mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov). Langan Engineering will coordinate inspection schedules with residents and will review design plans, drawings and reports. Langan will prepare a summary of the inspection, including recommendations, as necessary.

### Need More Information?

EPA’s DuPont Pompton Lakes Works Web site @ [http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont\\_pompton/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont_pompton/index.html)

New Jersey DEP Web Site @ [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/community/sites/dupont\\_pompton\\_lakes/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/community/sites/dupont_pompton_lakes/)

“EPA’s Pompton Lakes/Dupont” group page @ [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) for community discussions, links to recent news articles, events and more.

### Pompton Lakes Remediation Project Information Center

223 Wanaque Avenue in Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

Phone Number is (973) 492-7729 10AM – 6PM Monday thru Friday, evenings and weekends by appointment

## **Alternate Contractor Programs Give Residents Options**

### **Sampling Contractor Program Under Development:**

Sub-slab sampling is not necessary to support the conclusion that some form of vapor mitigation should be implemented in homes located in the shallow groundwater contamination plume area of Pompton Lakes. However, some plume area residents that currently do not have vapor mitigation systems in their homes want sub-slab testing prior to mitigation system installation and have requested that they be given a choice in who tests their homes. Therefore, the NJ DEP and EPA are currently developing an alternative sampling contractor program to allow residents in the Vapor Mitigation Area the ability to use a NJ DEP contractor to conduct sub-slab and, as appropriate, indoor air sampling before system installation. EPA contractors will observe the sampling conducted by NJ DEP's contractor. The NJ DEP is currently developing the process and engaging a contractor to conduct the sampling. More information on this new program will be made public when details are finalized.

### **Installation Contractor Program Launched in February:**

In response to requests by some plume area residents, NJ DEP recently launched a new program that gives residents a choice in selecting their own contractor to install sub-slab vapor mitigation systems. Residents can choose their own contractor or use DuPont's contractor, O'Brien and Gere, to perform the installation. If residents choose to select their own contractor, they will be required to enter into a contract with the installer and manage the contract during all phases of the work. Information and procedures to follow in selecting and managing an alternate contractor can be found on NJ DEP's Web site for Pompton Lakes (see page 1) under "Contractor Information for Pompton Lakes Homeowners". EPA will inspect all systems installed and will provide assistance to residents who choose their own contractor.

## **Enhanced Community Outreach Efforts Support Accelerated Site Cleanup**

### **Community Advisory Group for Site Cleanup (Environmental CAG):**

EPA is acquiring the services of a neutral facilitator to assist in the formation of a community advisory group for cleanup of the Dupont Pompton Lakes Works site. The environmental CAG will provide input and recommendations to EPA and NJ DEP on site cleanup decisions that are most critical to the community, such as cleanup of shallow ground water and lake sediment contamination and investigation and cleanup of the Dupont Pompton Lakes Works facility. A facilitator will be selected using input from community representatives and a list of qualified candidates maintained by EPA's contractor managing the national assistance program. CAG membership will be determined primarily by the community, under advisement from the CAG facilitator. Facilitator selection is anticipated in April, with CAG formation starting immediately thereafter.

The New Jersey Health Department and ATSDR recently started formation of a CAG for community health issues (Health CAG) potentially associated with site contamination. This group is expected to coordinate with the environmental CAG and include overlap in its representation.

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont\\_pompton/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont_pompton/index.html)

### **Community Involvement Plan:**

Community interviews will be scheduled by EPA in April as a starting point for development of a community involvement plan to guide our efforts to engage and inform the community. It will be a joint EPA-NJ DEP plan that will describe community concerns and identify the tools and methods that may be used by EPA and NJ DEP to address the concerns. We anticipate that a draft plan will be shared with the community in May for comment and then finalized this summer.

### **Facebook Group Page:**

EPA launched the second-of-its-kind-in-the-region Facebook group page “***EPA’s Pompton Lakes/Dupont***” in February. It now has over 300 members. We post links to news articles, start or add to discussions on a number of current topics and we get some really good feedback from the community. Group members provide helpful information to us and to each other.

### **Pompton Lakes Remediation Project Information Center:**

EPA’s Community Liaison is now in the community weekly at the Pompton Lakes Remediation Project Information Center, which opened on March 1 and is located at 223 Wanaque Avenue (rear entrance) in Pompton Lakes. EPA’s schedule alternates, generally Thursdays or Fridays. The NJ DEP and health agencies also will periodically have a presence at the information center. Fact sheets, major reports and maps and more can be found at the information center

## **EPA and NJ DEP Co-Lead on Site Cleanup**

EPA is working closely with the NJ DEP to accelerate the overall site cleanup schedule. We are doing this by dividing up the work and bringing more resources and expertise to bear. EPA is collaborating with NJ DEP on all site cleanup projects, with EPA taking a lead role on lake sediment cleanup. EPA’s national ground water experts from our research facility in Ada, Oklahoma are assessing DuPont’s technology recommendations for cleaning up the shallow ground water, which is the source of the contaminants affecting homes above the plume. EPA is bringing in our regional dredging and sediment decontamination experts to help evaluate options for cleaning up contaminated sediment in the Acid Brook Delta and Pompton Lake. As noted previously, EPA also is performing inspections of vapor mitigation systems and observing NJ DEP sampling activities.

[http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/community/sites/dupont\\_pompton\\_lakes/](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/community/sites/dupont_pompton_lakes/)

## What's Next

- In May:**
- Formation of Environmental Community Advisory Group
  - Release of draft community involvement plan
- By July:**
- Completion of remedial investigation for the Acid Brook Valley Manufacturing areas
  - Completion of remedial investigation for the Wanaque River Valley Manufacturing areas
  - Submittal of Vapor Intrusion Remedial Investigation report
  - Submittal of Acid Brook Delta/Pompton Lake Sediment Remedial Action Work Plan
- By August:**
- Submittal of Wanaque River Valley Remedial Investigation of surface water and sediment

## Site Contacts

<b>NJDEP:</b>	<b>Mindy Mumford</b>	<b>(609) 777-1976</b>
<b>EPA:</b>	<b>David Kluesner</b>	<b>(212) 637-3653</b>
<b>NJDHSS:</b>	<b>Somia Aluwalia or Sharon Kubiak</b>	<b>(609) 826-4984</b>
<b>NJDHSS:</b>	<b>Kate McGreevey or Christina Fontecchio</b>	<b>(609) 826-4920</b>
<b>ATSDR:</b>	<b>Leah Graziano</b>	<b>(732) 906-6932</b>

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont\\_pompton/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/dupont_pompton/index.html)