

Community Update

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Public Participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions, please contact:

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For more information on the site visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/south-jersey-clothing>

Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) transferred operating responsibility of the groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) for the South Jersey Clothing Company (SJCC) Superfund site to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in September 2020. Starting in September 2021, EPA will remove large tanks and other equipment from the treatment system that are no longer needed as part of the extraction and treatment process for contaminated groundwater at the site.

Site Background

The SJCC, located in Minotola, Buena Borough, New Jersey, operated from the 1940s to the 1980s. The company made uniforms, which were

dry cleaned as part of the manufacturing process. For years, the dry-cleaning wastewater, which contained toxic chemicals including tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene, was dumped onto the ground near the facility. In 1979, a fire at the site also damaged a storage tank, spilling more toxic fluids onto the ground. The fluids soaked into the soil, contaminated a local aquifer, and began spreading from the site. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989, making it eligible for cleanup under the Superfund program.

Past Cleanup Activities

In 1991, EPA issued a cleanup plan to use soil vapor extraction (SVE), a process that involves removing contaminant vapors in soil from below ground and treating them above ground, to address soil contamination. The plan also called for extracting, removing contamination, and reinjecting groundwater at the site.

In April 1997, the SJCC building was demolished to construct the groundwater treatment system and SVE system on the SJCC property. The SVE system, which addressed soil at the SJCC site, operated from February 1999 through February 2001. EPA then sampled the soil and determined that the soil cleanup goals for the SJCC site were met. The GWETS started operating in January 1999. The GWETS addresses groundwater contamination at the SJCC site and the neighboring Garden State Cleaners Superfund site.

EPA operated and maintained the treatment system through an interagency agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The responsibility for operating the treatment plant was then transferred to NJDEP in September.