



Health Assessment, Consultation and Education Program (HACE)

Benfield Industries NPL Site

Public Health Assessment and Letter Health Consultation

November 23, 2010



Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Inc. on the re-developed Benfield Industries NPL Site

Background

The former Benfield Industries Site is located at 112 through 124 Riverbend Street in Waynesville, Haywood County, North Carolina. A bulk chemical mixing and repackaging facility, Benfield Industries, Inc., operated on the site from 1976 until 1982 when a fire destroyed the plant. Products handled by Benfield Industries included paint thinners, solvents, sealants, cleaners, de-icing solutions and wood preservatives. The original site covered six acres.

After the 1982 fire, Benfield Industries removed all chemicals and debris, and covered the site with clean fill material. The site was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "National Priorities List" or "Superfund" program in 1989.

During the Superfund process, soil and groundwater contamination with a variety of organic substances was identified on the site. Active soil and groundwater cleanup activities began in 1997 and ended in 2007.

In 2002, Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Inc. (HVO) bought the property. They completed the re-development of the site in 2004. HVO currently operates a manufacturing facility on the site.

The current property deed includes perpetual land-use restrictions to protect public health and the environment. The deed restrictions prevent use of the property for residential purposes, and prevent alteration or removal of existing soil. The deed also restricts the use of any surface or groundwater on the site as drinking water or for swimming.

As part of EPA's ongoing oversight of the Benfield Industries NPL site, there is continued monitoring of the groundwater beneath the site, as well as that flowing away from the site.

Purpose of the Public Health Assessment and Letter Health Consultation

EPA requested the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct a Public Health Assessment as a follow-up to the one completed in 1990. This document presents the findings of the follow-up Public Health Assessment and a Letter Health Consultation. This work was conducted through a cooperative agreement between ATSDR and the N.C. Division of Public Health's Health Assessment, Consultation, and Education Program (HACE).

How was the Health Consultation conducted?

We evaluated data collected by EPA and by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from 1990 through 2008 in a

Public Health Assessment, and groundwater data collected in February 2010 in a Letter Health Consultation.

Conclusion

The following conclusions and recommendations are based on data evaluated in both the Public Health Assessment (February, 2010) and the Letter Health Consultation (October, 2010).

- There is no indication that individuals on or near this site are in contact with toxic chemicals in the soil or groundwater from the former Benfield Industries NPL site.

Basis for the Conclusion

- The contaminated soil has been removed and covered with several layers of clean soil. The area has been re-developed with a new building and the property deed includes perpetual land use restrictions to protect public health and the environment.
- There is no potential for people to come in contact with contaminated groundwater since there are no private wells in use in the path of the contamination.

Recommendations by the N.C. Division of Public Health

- Verify that no private wells near the site or in the likely path of the contamination are being used for drinking.

UPDATE: EPA's February 2010 data confirms that there are no private wells in use in the path of the contamination. Residents were connected to the municipal supply in 1996 when the area was annexed to the Town of Waynesville.

- Any well near the site that is still used for drinking should be tested for volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and for metals. If levels found are above

regulatory or health guideline levels, people should be immediately supplied with alternative water and then connected to municipal water.

UPDATE: EPA verified that no private wells exist in the path of the contamination.

- To protect current or future users of the contaminated groundwater, EPA should consider testing the bedrock aquifer in the likely path of the contamination.

UPDATE: EPA tested a closed private well that was drilled into the bedrock aquifer in the direction of flow away from the site. Very low levels of chemicals not associated with the site were found. However, there are no private wells in the area that could expose people to the chemicals.

- EPA or DENR should continue to monitor the concentration of organic chemicals and metals in the groundwater under and flowing away from the site.
- Drinking water wells should not be allowed to be drilled in the area affected by the site until all contaminants associated with the site have been reduced to levels that would not be harmful to health with long-term use.

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Additional Information

Full reports are available under Haywood County at www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/oee/hace.html



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