

Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County (PI #015123)

February 2022

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting a Remedial Investigation of soil and groundwater in vicinity of the Former Alexander Dry Cleaners at 137 Broadway. This fact sheet is designed to provide updated information about the investigation associated with this groundwater contamination investigation.

Site Remediation Program Office of Community Relations

PHIL MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA OLIVER
Lt. Governor

**SHAWN M.
LATOURETTE**
Commissioner

A soil and groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI) at the former Alexander Cleaners Site was conducted, which confirmed the presence of elevated levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) in soil and groundwater beneath the western portion of the former Alexander Cleaners site building.

Based on the findings of the prior investigations, free phase solvent contamination is likely to be present in soil beneath the western area of the former site building. Tetrachloroethene (PCE), a common dry-cleaning solvent, was confirmed to be present in soil at a concentration as high as 510,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), at a depth of 16-16.5 feet beneath the ground surface. Based on the findings, soils below the building are acting as a continuing source of the CVOCs that are impacting groundwater.

The dry cleaner building was demolished, and the basement floor was removed in 2020 to allow further on-site delineation of the CVOCs, along with future removal of the contaminant source by excavation. Source area remediation was recommended in the June 2018 Decision Document issued by NJDEP for the former Alexander Cleaners Site to address the chlorinated solvent contamination observed in the source area. The on-site delineation was completed in 2020. Additional off-site delineation to establish the extent of the contaminant plume is part of this next phase of the Remedial Investigation. Upon completion of the contamination delineation beneath the Site, removal of the source of the chlorinated solvent contamination in groundwater is planned.



(Over)

Former Alexander Cleaners Site

(Continued)

Current and Future Activities

To adequately delineate the groundwater contamination to the south of the site, NJDEP will advance soil borings immediately south of the site at the adjacent bank property and install additional off-site monitoring wells to assess groundwater migration of the CVOCs to the south and south-southwest.

NJDEP has retained H2M Architects and Engineers (H2M) of Parsippany, NJ to continue this investigation. The additional investigation will evaluate the vertical and horizontal extent of the contamination by collecting, analyzing, and evaluating the results of environmental samples collected in the area.

These investigation activities include:

- Geophysical survey of locations prior to initiation of drilling activities.
- Installation of soil gas sample points to analyze for CVOCs in soil-gas along Broadway to evaluate whether there is eastern and southeastern migration of CVOC vapors.
- Installation of monitoring wells to delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of CVOCs in groundwater.
- Survey of monitoring wells to evaluate groundwater flow characteristics.
- Collection of groundwater samples to assess groundwater quality.
- Evaluation of receptors to assess potential impacts to human and ecological receptors.

Upon completion of the Remedial Investigation, a report will be prepared. The report will describe the sampling activities and methods, discuss the results of sample analysis, and will

draw conclusions based on these data. Recommendations for additional investigation and/or remediation will be included as part of this report.

Preparation of Bid Specifications for the future remediation of the soil beneath the former Alexander Cleaners site will be prepared following completion of these investigation activities.

Health Concerns

For health questions, please contact the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Indoor Environments Program at (609) 826-4920. NJDOH can provide you and your physicians with contact information for experts in the field of environmental health.

**For more information on this cleanup,
please contact:**

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