

Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

**Kellogg-Deering Well Field**

The Kellogg-Deering Well Field area is one of fifteen "Superfund" hazardous waste sites in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is assessing the potential implications of contamination at this site for the neighboring community. The document containing this assessment is referred to as a "Public Health Assessment" and is being produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and other groups involved with the management of this site. If you have specific concerns about the health implications of this site, please write or call Kenny Foscue or Jennifer Kertanis at the Connecticut Department of Health Services, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (203)566-8167.

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**SITE SUMMARY**

The Kellogg-Deering Well Field Superfund site covers approximately 140 acres of light industrial, commercial and residential properties, including a 10-acre well field. The site is in the north central section of Norwalk, between Interstate Routes 95 and State Highway 7 extension (see site map).

History

Waste materials from metal plating and solvent cleaning operations were disposed of into open earth trenches at the Zell Manufacturing facility at 272 and 282 Main Street for approximately 30 years (1945-75).

Ground water contamination was first detected at the Kellogg-Deering Well Field in 1975. The US Environmental Protection Agency placed this site on the National Priorities

list in 1984, qualifying it for clean-up funds under the Superfund law.

The site has been managed by EPA as three distinct areas called Operable Units. Operable Units 1 is the well field and water distribution system. Operable Unit 2 is the source area at the Elinco/Pitney Bowes/Matheis Court complex. Operable Unit 3 is the contamination area not part of Operable Units 1 or 2.

**CONTAMINATION**

Public water supply wells have been contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), however, there is a system in place to clean VOCs from the public water system. Water quality monitoring of the public water supply shows that the treatment system is working very effectively. It is not known if anyone is using ground water from a private well source that may have VOC contamination.

Volatile organic compounds are

characterized by their tendency to evaporate (or volatilize) in the air from soil or water. VOCs include substances that are contained in common solvents and cleaning fluids. These compounds include tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, methyl chloride, and carbon tetrachloride.

The source of contamination is approximately one half mile northeast of the well field. There is movement of chemicals in ground water between the well field and the source area.

#### HEALTH CONCERNS

The most significant exposures at this site may have occurred in the past due to contamination of the public well water. Past exposures to contaminated public well water used for drinking, cooking, or bathing may have created an unacceptable risk to human health. Available information, however, does not show any connection between exposures that might have happened, and any adverse health effects among area residents. It should be noted that sufficient information concerning the extent and duration of exposure to contaminated groundwater before 1975 is not available.

It is important to know that public water supplies are currently safe, as they are effectively being treated to remove VOCs (see below). Current exposures are not likely to be occurring at levels which cause significant risk.

#### What You Should Know

\* A packed tower air stripper has been installed by the Norwalk First Taxing District Water Company to remove volatile organic compounds from ground water at the Kellogg-Deering Well Field. This stripper agitates the well water so that volatile chemicals can become airborne, leaving the water with greatly reduced levels.

\* An air stripper has also been installed at the Elinco/Pitney Bowes/Matheis Court complex to remove VOCs from ground water at the source area.

\* EPA is currently conducting the last phase of its remedial investigation of the site which is intended to define the extent of contamination and provide information needed to decide on final clean-up procedures.

\* Since ground water has been severely impacted by contamination within this site, it is important that people on or near the site have any private wells tested and cease use if contaminated.

\* Reports of skin reactions from contact with water and sediments from Deering Pond have been made. Surface water and sediment sampling as well as toxicity testing have not shown that site-related contaminants have adversely affected the pond.

\* According to hydrogeology studies, site-contaminated groundwater is travelling below the Norwalk River and is not contaminating its waters.

HEALTH ACTION PLANS  
AND STATUS

1. The Connecticut Department of Health Services (DHS) will provide environmental health education for local citizens, public health officials, and the medical community. This fact sheet is part of that education.

2. The local health department in cooperation with the DHS will conduct a survey of all residents near and within the site to make sure no residence is using contaminated water from a private water source.

3. Reports by area residents of adverse health effects thought to be related to the site will be documented and investigated if necessary.

INFORMATION SOURCES

HEALTH: If you have health concerns related to the site, contact your physician. Explain your situation and what you may have been exposed to. Your physician may contact the Norwalk City Health Department or the Connecticut Department of Health Services with any questions.

Norwalk City Health Department  
137-139 East Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
(203) 854-7821

State of Connecticut  
Department of Health Services  
Environmental Epidemiology and  
Occupational Health  
150 Washington Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

(203) 566-8167

Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry- Region I  
60 Westview Street  
Lexington, MA 02173  
(617) 860-4619

WATER QUALITY: If you have concerns about the quality of water around the Kellogg-Deering Well Field contact the Norwalk City Health Department or the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Management.

Bureau of Water Management  
Groundwater Section  
120 Washington Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(203) 566-3654

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY: If you are interested in connecting to a public water system call the Norwalk First Taxing District.

The Norwalk First Taxing  
District  
Water Department  
3 Belden Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06850  
(203) 847-7387

SUPERFUND: Information regarding the federal Superfund process may be obtained from:

US Environmental Protection  
Agency  
JFK Federal Building (RPA)  
Boston, MA 02203  
(617) 565-3419

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