



Higgins Farm Site Cleanup Plan

Community Update

May 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Community Involvement Program is committed to promoting communication between the public and the Agency. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any public project.

EPA's community involvement activities at the Higgins Farm site are designed to inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues associated with the site, involve the public in the decision-making process that will affect them, and inform the public of the progress being made to implement the cleanup.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted a second five-year review of the remedy addressing ground water contamination at the site in September 2008 and it was determined that the site still remains protective of human health and the environment.

The remedy at the site consists of the following:

- Construction of an on-site treatment plant to treat the contaminated ground water;
- Discharge of the treated ground water to an on-site surface water body;
- Implementation of a sampling program involving monitoring wells and down gradient residential wells to evaluate off-site migration and the effectiveness of the ground water extraction system;
- Conduct limited investigations to confirm that all sources of contamination were identified; and
- Removal and proper disposal of contaminated materials which were generated during prior site stabilization and remedial investigation activities that are presently stored on the site.

In August 2006 both NCH and FMC Corporation reached an agreement to undertake the Operation and Maintenance work at the Higgins Superfund site.



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NCH Corporation took over operations and maintenance activities in September 2006. NCH has optimized the treatment system as recommended by the Remediation System Evaluation.

Chronology of Events

In December 1985, the Franklin Township Health Department conducted sampling of a nearby residential well and found elevated levels of chlorobenzene. Further investigations by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) led to the discovery of a drum burial dump.

In March 1987, NJDEP requested that EPA assume the lead role for mitigating the site. In April of that year, EPA stabilized the site to control further releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

In March 1989 the site was formally placed on the National Priority List. An interim Record of Decision was signed in September 1990 to install a waterline, and the remedial action was completed in May 1993.

A second Record of Decision was signed in September 1992 which selected a remedy for contaminated groundwater at the site. Construction activities were completed in November 1999.

Site History

The Higgins Farm Superfund site is located in a rural area along Route 518 in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. The site is approximately 75 acres in size and is currently operating as a cattle farm. The site is primarily pasture land with two residences.