

Site Background

The Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site includes three municipal water supply wells (numbered as 1, 5, and 6), which are located off of Union Street in the eastern section of Rockaway Borough. The groundwater at the municipal water supply wells was impacted primarily with tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). The three municipal water supply wells are located in an aquifer designated as the sole source aquifer for Rockaway Borough and the surrounding communities. The wells are approximately a quarter mile to the south-southeast of the Rockaway River, which runs through Rockaway Borough. Based on early site investigations, the suspected sources of the TCE and PCE contamination included industrial and commercial operations within Rockaway Borough, including the K&K facility and the WS/EM area. The K&K source area is a portion of the larger Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site where metal was shaped or machined, and rocket components were manufactured. Currently, the K&K source area is an industrial area in northwest Rockaway Borough where a metal fabrication facility and a landscaping company operate. Many activities, including dry cleaning and automotive repairs, contributed to the contamination found at the WS/EM source area which consists of several businesses in a commercial area. The Rockaway Borough Wellfield Superfund site was placed on EPA's National Priorities List in September 1983.



Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and Trichloroethene (TCE)

PCE is a nonflammable liquid used frequently in dry cleaning and to remove grease. It is also referred to as perchloroethylene or PERC.

TCE is a nonflammable colorless liquid used as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. It is also found in adhesives, paint removers, and spot removers.

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