



November 2016

Ringwood Mines Landfill Superfund Site – New Groundwater Sampling Data

The latest groundwater sampling results have been received and reviewed by the EPA. The full report is available online: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/02/458008>.

The results of the August 2016 sampling appear consistent with the results of previous sampling events. They show a similar distribution of benzene and 1, 4-dioxane in groundwater at the site.

As noted previously, groundwater and surface water quality have been monitored at the site and nearby since the 1980s. There is no evidence that the groundwater is impacting the Wanaque Reservoir. In addition, groundwater at the Ringwood Mines site is not a source of drinking water. Although benzene and 1, 4-dioxane continue to be detected, the levels do not present an imminent health threat as the water is not used for drinking.

In the Peter's Mine area, which had been previously identified as having 1,4-dioxane, an isolated sample showed an unusually elevated level of 1,4-dioxane. This sample was retested and determined to be an anomaly. The well will be sampled again soon to confirm this assessment. The collective data suggest that this elevated value is not representative since overall the results show a similar distribution of 1, 4-dioxane in groundwater compared with the last round of sampling.

The EPA is committed to full transparency and timely updates to communities affected by Superfund cleanups. The EPA will continue to require the periodic monitoring of groundwater and surface water quality at, and downstream of, the site to ensure that contamination does not impact water quality in the Wanaque Reservoir. The EPA will continue to share data with the Ringwood community in a timely manner by emailing these updates when new data are available and posting all data to our website. The next round of sampling will be conducted in August 2017.

What is Benzene?

Benzene is a known human carcinogen that is used as a constituent in motor fuels and in the manufacture of detergents, explosives, pharmaceuticals, and dyes among other uses.

Where was it found?

Benzene was found in the Peter's Mine area of the site. It was not found in surface water nor in the Wanaque Reservoir.

What is 1-4 Dioxane?

1,4 dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical that is completely mixable with water. It is found in many products, including paint strippers, dyes, greases, varnishes and waxes; it is also found in some consumer products (deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics). 1,4-Dioxane was commonly used as a stabilizer for certain chlorinated solvents such as 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

Where was it found?

1, 4-dioxane was detected primarily in the Peter's Mine portion of the site. It was not detected at levels above the New Jersey standard in the samples collected from off-site locations. 1, 4-dioxane has never been detected in the Wanaque Reservoir.

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