



Oakwood Mobile Home Park January 30, 2001

Introduction

A former resident of Oakwood Mobile Home Park in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, asked the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) whether past exposure to chemicals present in drinking water might have caused her child's acute lymphocytic leukemia, commonly known as childhood leukemia. Under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR, the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH), conducted a health consultation to address the resident's questions.

Site Description and History

Oakwood Mobile Home Park was established in the late 1950s and was originally Camak Trailer Park. It is off U.S. Highway 129 (Georgia Highway 15) and Jefferson River Road. A drinking water well was used for many decades, but the date the well was installed is not known.

In January 1999, a resident of Oakwood Mobile Home Park called the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) and requested to have the well water tested for possible petroleum contamination. GEPD inspected and tested the well, and the water contained compounds, including carbon tetrachloride and 1,2-dichloroethane at levels exceeding Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)

Environmental Sampling/Results

The resident submitted a water sample on January 19, 1999, to confirm the findings of the previous sampling results. GEPD received the results of the tests on February 2, 1999, and began making arrangements to connect Oakwood Mobile Home Park to the Athens-Clarke County Water System. GEPD and the Georgia Department of Human Resources Health Director issued an advisory to discontinue use of the water on February 12, 1999. On February 16, 1999, public water connections were complete, and residents had a safe drinking water supply.

Additional well water samples were collected February 22, 1999, in order to better characterize the contamination present in well water. Contaminants were present in the water at that time at levels higher than previously found.

Shallow groundwater appears to be moving toward the Oconee River. The contaminated groundwater likely discharges to the Oconee River, upstream from the public drinking water intake. The public drinking water supply is not likely threatened because the intake is far enough downstream so that contaminants would either evaporate or become diluted before reaching the intake. Direction of deeper groundwater flow has not been determined. The largest amount of carbon tetrachloride is likely in deeper groundwater.

Conclusions

The groundwater contaminants first discovered at Oakwood Mobile Home Park are a **public health hazard**. Exposure to the levels of contamination found in the groundwater could result in adverse health effects, however, none of the contaminants found have been directly linked to childhood leukemia. Public water is available throughout the area, so other individuals are not likely using the contaminated groundwater.

Recommendations

- Collect and analyze well water samples from any private or community well that is found in the area.
- Collect and analyze water from Oconee River where the contaminated groundwater likely enters the river and from raw public water supply to confirm that contaminants are not affecting the water supply.
- Provide GDPH and ATSDR with any data collected during future evaluations,