



Walton Manufacturing April 15, 2002

Introduction

A resident of Walton County, Georgia, asked the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) whether past or current exposure to chemicals present in the drinking water might have caused acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) in children living in her community. She is concerned the municipal drinking water supply, and that exposure to these chemicals might cause health problems in children. The GDPH, under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), conducted a health consultation to address these concerns.

Site Description and History

The site is a former clothing manufacturing facility, also known as Kuppenheimer Men's Clothiers. It is located on U.S. Highway 78 on approximately 16 acres of land between Walton Street and Hodges Street in Loganville, Walton County, Georgia. Businesses and residences near the vicinity of the site use municipal water, and there are no municipal water wells near the site. There are no surface water bodies near the site that are used for municipal water supply or for recreational purposes.

The site was reportedly developed in 1957 and has had several owning entities until operations were shut down in 1996. Currently, the site is unused, except for a small portion of the building that is being rented by a small clothing distribution service.

In March 1996, the Walton Manufacturing Company was added to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) as a result of a release of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) to groundwater beneath the site. No details concerning the actual release are available. GEPD required that the owners of the facility characterize the groundwater contamination, including the level of PCE in groundwater, the size, and path of the contamination plume. Beginning in June 1999, voluntary cleanup was conducted at the site through a "pump and treat" system consisting of a series of seven recovery wells. In November 2000, groundwater analyses results determined that contamination levels dropped below the levels of health

concern in all wells. In December 2001, GEPD determined that groundwater contamination had been sufficiently remediated, and the Walton Manufacturing Company was removed from the HSI.

Environmental Sampling

GDPH evaluated groundwater-monitoring data to determine whether the PCE release might have had an impact on the municipal water supply. On-site groundwater sampling was conducted during several events, and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC), to determine the nature and extent of contamination, and if contaminated groundwater has moved off-site. A hydrogeological investigation was also performed to further characterize the contamination plume.

Results

With the groundwater sampling and hydrogeological investigation, the PCE contamination plume was well defined and did not indicate any significant off-site migration. There is no indication that local drinking water supplies have been contaminated. The plume has been cleaned up and it is unlikely that it will affect the municipal water supply in the future. There is no threat to drinking water expected from this site.

Conclusions

The groundwater contaminant plume found at Walton Manufacturing Company is not a public health hazard. The plume has not affected the local municipal water supply. Groundwater contamination has been cleaned up; therefore, there are no future threats from contaminants at this site. Because there has been no exposure to contaminants from the site, and there is no community based health outcome data to indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health, GDPH categorizes this site as **no public health hazard**.

Recommendations

GDPH will continue to respond to citizen's requests for information about the site, and concerns about cancer rates and other health issues in the community.