Raymark Bulletin # 20

October, 1997

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EPA
Region 1, New England

RAYMARK BULLETIN

Ceremony November 3 at 11:30

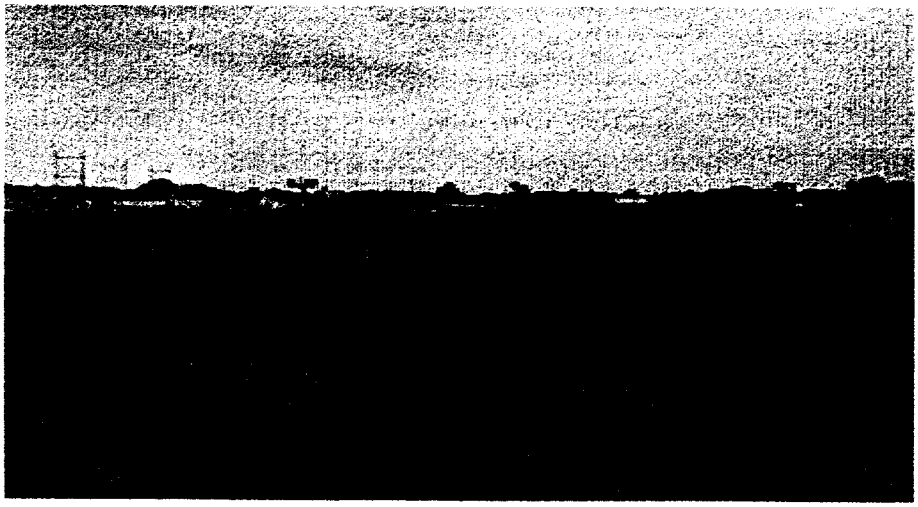
Completion of the Cleanup at Raymark Facility

It was just over two years ago that the green buildings of the Raymark plant and mountains of contaminated materials were visible to Stratford residents, I-95 motorists, and Metro North railroad commuters as they passed the Raymark property on East Main Street and Barnum Avenue.

The buildings, contaminated soil excavated from 46 residential properties and the Wooster Junior High School, and Raymark's waste lagoons are gone now along with other dangerous wastes of the manufacturing process. The cleanup involved the demolition of over 15 acres of buildings, placement of a 36 acre cap with active gas collection, and the pumping of solvents out of the groundwater. The cap covers decades of Raymark wastes up to 24 feet thick over the entire property, along with the waste excavated from offsite properties.

The cleanup was constructed so that future commercial development can once again make the property an asset to the community.

The mammoth cleanup, one of the largest and quickest in the nation's superfund history, has been completed with the cooperation and help of Stratford's citizens, state and federal agencies, and Leach Family Holdings.



Looking east across Raymark property

Citizens Invited to Celebrate and Tour Site

A ceremony to mark the completion of construction activities will be held on Monday, November 3, at 11:30 a.m. and will include planting of a tree and shrubbery to symbolize the restoration of the site. Speakers will include Members of Connecticut's

Congressional delegation, EPA New England Administrator John DeVillars, and key representatives from the state of Connecticut and the Stratford community. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and to tour the new treatment buildings and grounds.

The clelebration will take place on the southwest corner of the property and visitors can enter from Barnum Aveunue just before Long Brook Avenue.

Operation and Maintenance

Thee are two treatment buildings on the property -- one in the east and one in the west. The western treatment building collects the solvents that are pumped out of the groundwater in 5 locations in the western part of the property. The solvents are stored in a storage tank until the material can be properly disposed of at a commercial treatment facility. The western treatment building also collects gases via pipes that run underneath the western portion of the property. Airborne contaminants beneath the cap are removed through activated carbon.

The eastern treatment building also collects gases underneath the cap, but from the eastern portion of the property. The eastern portion of the property is heavily contaminated with a solvent known as toluene. In order to remove the toluene from beneath the cap, a more powerful gas collection system was installed specifically to remove the toluene vapors from beneath the cap. The eastern treatment building collects all of the gases from the 2 gas collection systems and removes the gases through a thermal oxidizer.

There are also monitoring wells installed on the property to monitor the quality of the groundwater. These wells will be periodically sampled by EPA.

EPA will be operating and performing maintenance on the property until next summer when the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protections will assume the responsibility for operating and maintaining the components of the remedy.

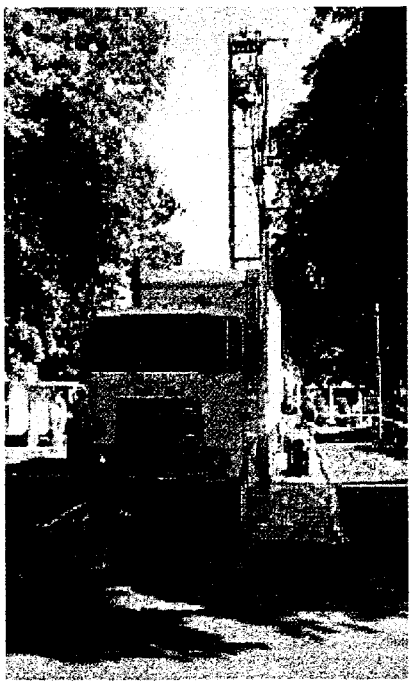
Ferry Creek

Now that the first two phases of the overall Superfund cleanup have been completed - the removal of Raymark waste from residential properties and the cleanup and capping of the former plant - EPA has additional work to complete outside the Raymark property.

The third phase of the cleanup project is the cleanup of Ferry Creek and the surrounding areas. EPA is currently analyzing the results of months of investigation and intends to propose a cleanup plan for Ferry Creek and the surrounding area in 1998.

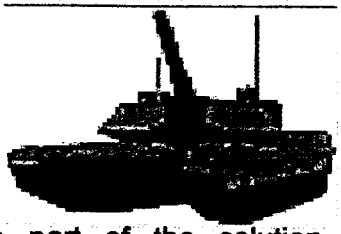
Groundwater Investigation

The final part of the Superfund cleanup project is the investigation to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination migrating from the former Raymark plant. Based on the analysis of data obtained from groundwater sampling at multiple locations this past summer, EPA began the installation of thirty-two monitoring wells in ten locations in September. Four locations are in residential areas, and EPA staff and contractors worked with the homeowners in the vicinity of the wells to minimize disturbances during the installation process. The installation of the monitoring wells was completed in late October. Groundwater samples will be taken from the wells over the next year, and a cleanup plan will be developed by the spring of 1999.



Groundwater monitoring well being installed in early October.

Stratford Army Engine Plant



Be part of the solution at another environmental cleanup site in Stratford. A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has been formed to review environmental documents and plans, provide advice and voice community concerns to the Army, and communicate back to the community. The RAB is composed of community volunteers and staff from the Army , EPA, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Currently there are openings for additional community representatives to work on the team to address cleanup strategies at the Allied Signal facility.

If you are interested in serving on the RAB, please call either Margarita Hartley-Moore (Community Co-Chair) at 203-380-2063 or John Burleson (Army Co-Chair) at 203-385-4316.

All RAB meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stratford Town Hall. Feel free to attend, offer comments, and ask questions!

Use This Space to Write to EPA

or to be added to the mailing list

If you have questions or comments about EPA or the Raymark cleanup and would like to write to us, you can use the form below. Please mail this form or additional sheets of comments to:

Jim Murphy
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
JFK Federal Building (RAA)
Boston, MA 02203-0001
or E-mail to: Murphy.Jim@epamail.epa.gov
Fax: 617-565-3415 Phone: 617-565-3392

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(Attach sheets as needed)

Mailing list additions, deletions or changes:

☐ be added to site mailing list

☐ note a change of address

☐ be deleted from the mailing list

Please check the appropriate box and fill in the correct address information on the comment lines above.

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