

# Raymark Superfund Site

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM** protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.

## INTRODUCTION:

The former Raymark Industries manufacturing facility produced gaskets, clutches, brake, and friction components primarily for the automotive industry, and discharged its liquid manufacturing wastes primarily into the ground. As a result of years of operations, the groundwater beneath and down gradient from the former facility is contaminated.

## GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATIONS:

EPA has drilled and sampled over 500 wells and borings on and around the Raymark site. Information from these borings has been used to show the location and direction of groundwater flow. There is no concern of anyone drinking contaminated water because everyone in the affected area of groundwater contamination is connected to the municipal water supply.

There is a potential, however, that the air inside some buildings could be affected. Certain types of contaminants, known as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), have the potential to change from a liquid into a vapor and move from the groundwater into the soil and upwards into buildings. This process is known as vapor intrusion (VI).

A number of residential homes near the Raymark site have been evaluated and systems similar to radon systems have been installed to prevent VI. Groundwater was sampled again recently, and it was found that the potential for VI remains. Because of this, commercial properties located within the area are now being evaluated.

## INDOOR AIR SAMPLING AT COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES:

EPA is planning to perform indoor air sampling at a number of commercial properties during February 2012. EPA staff will set up 1-3 sampling canisters that will collect air continuously for 8 hours. An EPA sampling technician may check the sampling equipment a few times over the course of the sampling event to ensure that the equipment

is working properly. At the end of the 8 hour period, the sampling canisters will be collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis. EPA will also simultaneously conduct either soil gas (collecting air from beneath the buildings' foundation) and/or shallow groundwater sampling (from nearby shallow groundwater wells) in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of any contaminants that might be detected through the canister sampling.

Indoor air sampling results will be provided to the owner(s) of the building in approximately 6-8 weeks after the sampling is concluded. A second sampling event is planned for this summer. If either sampling event indicates potential concern, EPA will likely plan further sampling.

## SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

The sampling of indoor air in commercial properties is simply a precautionary measure. If, however, sampling does identify a concern, there are both immediate and long-term solutions that can reduce and/or eliminate problems with VOCs. The easiest short-term solution may be adjustments to the ventilation system. Long-term solutions include sealing sumps, drains, and cracks or other openings in the foundation. Other actions may also be considered. Each building is different and will be evaluated individually, should any concerns be identified.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:

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