Raymark Bulletin #32

April 2000

RAYMARK 13.5 6303

EPA Plans to Evaluate Possible Links between Groundwater Contamination and Residential Indoor Air Quality

This bulletin has been prepared primarily for residents that live along ***Housatonic Ave., Willow Ave., Homestead Ave., Minor Ave., Burr Place, Riverview Place, Orchard Street, Housatonic Ave. Ext., and Ferry Blvd.*** *(See map on reverse side)*

Introduction

This fact sheet provides an update on groundwater investigations being conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Raymark Superfund Site. Groundwater in some parts of Stratford is affected by hazardous wastes originally produced by Raymark, a manufacturer of gaskets, clutches, and heavy brake friction components for the automotive industry.

Groundwater contamination beneath the Raymark Superfund Site

EPA investigators have drilled and sampled over 400 wells and borings on and around the contaminated locations associated with Raymark waste disposal. Information from these areas is being used to show the location and direction of flow of groundwater contamination. Fortunately, everyone in the affected area is connected to the municipal water supply and there is no concern of anyone drinking contaminated water from private wells.

There is a potential, however, for the air inside some homes to be affected. Certain types of contaminants that are in the groundwater have the ability to volatilize (turn into a gas) and move from the groundwater into the soil and possibly into the air. These types of contaminants are called Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Some VOCs have the potential to migrate into homes through foundations and basement floors.

EPA to sample indoor air for contamination

The presence of VOCs in groundwater beneath residential homes has prompted EPA, with the assistance of state and local agencies, to plan to sample indoor air from selected homes. The most effective way to determine if the air within a home is affected is to perform indoor air sampling. This sampling will provide direct measurements of any VOCs that may be present. If VOCs are present in high enough concentrations, they may pose a health risk to some people who spend sufficient time indoors. If VOCs are found, however, there are both short and long term solutions that can reduce the levels and/or prevent VOCs from entering the home.

Homes to be sampled will be selected based upon a number of factors such as location, type of home construction, and willingness to participate in the sampling program. EPA will also be sampling soil gases outside the selected homes. The purpose of the sampling program is to determine if contaminants present in the groundwater are migrating into homes.

Indoor air sampling as part of an ongoing groundwater investigation

The discovery of VOC-contaminated groundwater occurred as EPA was developing a report on the groundwater contamination throughout the Raymark Superfund Site. This report, which is not yet complete, will define the overall groundwater impacts of Raymark-related wastes. Indoor air is one of the areas that may be impacted by groundwater contamination.

The next step in this investigation will begin in April when staff from the agencies listed below will conduct a voluntary survey of residents in the potentially affected area (see map on reverse side). The survey will be used to identify homes that would be suitable for indoor air sampling. Area homeowners will be notified about the sampling program and participation is completely voluntary. The indoor air sampling program will help determine the next steps to take to protect the health of Stratford residents.

Who should you contact for more information?

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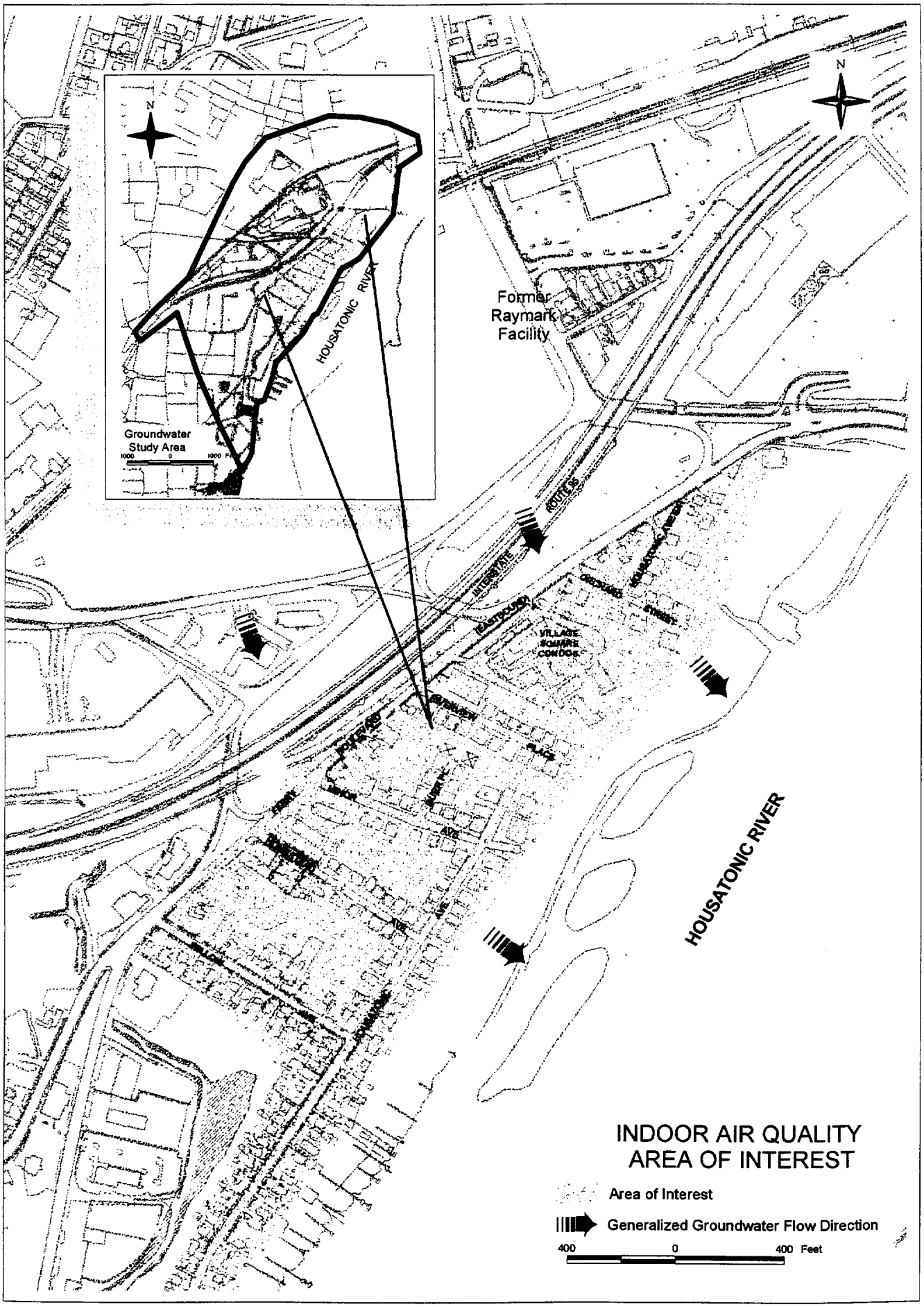

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Groundwater
Study Area
HOUSATONIC RIVER
Former
Raymark
Facility
INTERSTATE
ROUTE 95
(EASTBOUND)
VILLAGE
SQUARE
CONDOS
HOUSATONIC RIVER
INDOOR AIR QUALITY
AREA OF INTEREST
Area of Interest
Generalized Groundwater Flow Direction
400
0
400 Feet