

Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

STARR PROPERTY

The Starr Property site is a State designated Superfund site in Enfield, Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is investigating the possibility that contamination at this site might result in adverse human health effects in the neighboring community. The document containing this assessment is referred to as a public health assessment and has been produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and other groups involved with the management of this site; community health data; and concerns of the community. If you have specific concerns about the health implications of this site, please write or call Jennifer Kertanis or Kenny Foscue at the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (203) 566-8167. For more information about clean-up activities, please contact the CT Department of Environmental Protection at the address and phone number on page 4 of this factsheet.

SITE SUMMARY

The Starr Property site covers approximately 44 acres of undeveloped land off Simon Road on the Enfield/East Windsor Line. The Scantic River is about 750 feet east of the site. Residential developments border the site to the north and northwest.

History

Approximately 500-800 yards of coal gas filter wood chips were dumped at the site. It is believed that demolition debris from the destruction of a coal gasification plant were disposed of on-site in the 1960's. Waste material and various demolition debris can be observed on approximately five acres of the site. The CT Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) first investigated the site in June 1989 following citizen complaints about odors. In August 1989, several contaminants were found in soil samples. The CTDEP issued an administrative order in July 1990 requiring

the owner to investigate the waste and its potential effects on human health. A study (Preliminary Assessment and Remedial Investigation) was completed by Malcom Pirnie, Inc. A public health assessment document for the Starr Property has been released for public comment and will be finalized in 1995.

CONTAMINATION

Soil on the site contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead, arsenic and cyanide. Cyanide was found in some samples of run-off water from the site, and at low levels in private wells in East Windsor. Toluene and styrene were detected at two homes near the site. The highest concentrations of these contaminants were well below levels of health concern.

HEALTH CONCERNS

- ◇ People who trespass on the site may be exposed to site contaminants through breathing or ingesting dust, and through skin contact.
- ◇ Residents near the site have complained of headaches caused by odors from the site.

What You Should Know

- The site is classified as an indeterminant health hazard. Although odors from the site may be causing headaches, air testing has not found contaminants at levels that are generally known to cause such symptoms.
- Site access should be restricted. It is very important that people stay off the site, especially children who ride dirt bikes.
- Several residents in the nearby neighborhoods expressed concern about brain cancer and leukemia. The CT DPHAS looked at cancer occurrence in Enfield. Brain cancer and leukemia were not occurring at a greater rate than would be expected. There is little known exposure occurring to carcinogens and the latency period for many tumors is longer than the potential exposure from site contamination (the

residential areas were developed in 1987).

- Additional well sampling should be done for homes whose wells had low levels of cyanide.
- Clean-up of the site should occur as soon as possible to reduce the chance of exposure to site contaminants.

SITE ACTIVITY STATUS AND PLANS

ï The North Central Health District will sample private wells near the site in East Windsor. The results will be evaluated by the CT DPHAS.

ï The CT DPHAS will conduct community health education for communities living near the site.

INFORMATION SOURCES

HEALTH: If you have health concerns related to the site, please contact your physician. Explain your situation. Please let your doctor know the substances to which you may have been exposed. Area physicians and nurses have or will be provided information about the site contaminants and their potential health effects. Your physician may contact the

North Central Health District or the
Connecticut Department of Public Health
and Addiction Services with any questions.

Northeast Health District
182 South Main St.
Brooklyn, CT 06234
203-774-7350

CT Department of Public Health
Environmental Epidemiology and
Occupational Health Division
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
(860) 509-7742

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
Registry Region I 160 Westview St.
Lexington, MA 02173
(617) 860-4619

CT Dept. of Environmental Protection
Permitting and Enforcement
Remediation Division
79 Elm St.
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(203) 424-3705

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WATER QUALITY: If you have concerns
about the quality of water around the Starr
Property site, contact the North Central
Health District or the Department of
Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water
Management.

CT Dept. of Environmental Protection
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SUPERFUND: Information regarding the
state Superfund process may be obtained
from: