

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT THE FAIR LAWN WELL FIELD SUPERFUND SITE

FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY

WINTER 2024



### Upcoming Construction Activities

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing the construction of a groundwater treatment system at the Fair Lawn Well Field Superfund site in Fair Lawn, New Jersey which is expected to be completed by December 2024.

EPA approved the engineering design for the construction plans in September 2023. Ramboll, Inc., on behalf of Thermo Fisher and Sandvik, Inc., the parties responsible for cleaning up the contamination, also known as potentially responsible parties (PRPs), will begin constructing the groundwater treatment system in March 2024. To prepare for the construction activities, field work is scheduled for the week of February 26, 2024, and includes installing temporary fencing and an entrance gate, delivering a trailer and container to store equipment, installing erosion and sedimentation controls to prevent soil buildup, and removing asphalt.

The groundwater treatment system will remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs), 1,4 dioxane, and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) from the extracted groundwater and treat the contaminants using ultraviolet light, oxidation, and granular activated carbon so that in the future, people can safely drink the water if it is used as a drinking water source.

Beginning in early 2025, the PRPs and the Borough of Fair Lawn will test and evaluate the groundwater treatment system between six to twelve months to ensure the treated water meets federal and state drinking water standards, before the borough takes control of operating and maintaining the system in summer 2025.

#### About the Contaminants

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** are man-made chemicals that evaporate at room temperature and are associated with a higher risk of reproductive effects and cancer after prolonged exposure. More information can be found on EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-are-volatile-organic-compounds-vocs](http://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/what-are-volatile-organic-compounds-vocs)

**1,4 dioxane** is a clear liquid that easily dissolves in water and used primarily as a solvent in manufacturing chemicals and as a laboratory reagent. Exposure to high levels can result in nasal cavity, liver, and kidney damage. More information can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts187.pdf>

**Perfluoroalkyls**, including **Perfluorooctanoic acid** (PFOA) and **Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid** (PFOS), are a group of man-made chemicals that are not found naturally in the environment and do not break down in the environment very easily. Perfluoroalkyls can seep through the soil into groundwater. More information can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts200.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts200.pdf)



## Activity in Your Neighborhood

**Security/Access:** The construction site is next to 11<sup>th</sup> Street and near the Westmoreland Elementary School and requires security with controlled access in and out of the area during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Work will not be done on Saturdays and Sundays. The contractor will install signs and fencing and will log visitors and vehicles coming to and leaving the site. Access to the site will be from 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Employees and visitors will be required to sign in and out of the work zone during construction hours.

**Noise and Dust Impacts:** The PRPs will monitor for dust throughout the course of construction activities. The PRPs will control erosion and sediment using silt fence and/or silt socks along the northern end of the construction site which runs along 11<sup>th</sup> Street and install a stabilized construction entrance. Contractors may reduce noise by installing temporary barriers and sound absorbing materials and using special equipment that produces low noise levels.

**Traffic Impacts:** The work will cause additional traffic in and around the neighborhood and the Westmoreland Elementary school specifically when heavy construction equipment is brought in and out of the construction site and during deliveries of building materials. Access to properties near the construction site will not be restricted. Traffic controls during deliveries will mitigate congestion during peak traffic hours. There will be vehicle restrictions or weight limits on local roadways. Public roadways adjacent to the site will be maintained to be free of dirt, mud and debris from truck and equipment traffic entering and exiting the site.

## Past Activities

The PRPs investigated the site in June 2018 to determine the extent of the contamination and identify possible solutions to clean it up. EPA selected a cleanup plan in September 2018, which calls for the existing groundwater recovery and treatment systems located at the Thermo Fisher and 18-01 Pollitt Drive properties to continue removing and treating groundwater. The cleanup plan also calls for a new groundwater treatment system at the Westmoreland Well Field to remove VOCs, 1,4-dioxane, and PFOA/PFOS.

In 2021, the PRPs began collecting samples from 35 existing monitoring wells and from Little Diamond Brook, formally Henderson Brook, to test the groundwater and surface water for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). They also sampled for VOCs and 1,4-dioxane.

## Site Background

The Fair Lawn Well Field Superfund site includes the groundwater that impacts four municipal wells located on or around Westmoreland Avenue in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. In 2016, these wells were removed from service as drinking water sources due to the presence of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater and two of the wells remained in service to recover groundwater for treatment.

To determine the source of contamination, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) investigated all industrial and commercial facilities within a 3,000-foot radius of the contaminated municipal wells. NJDEP found that the primary source of the contamination is within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park and that the Thermo Fisher and Sandvik facilities were among the sources of groundwater contamination. EPA placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List in September 1983.

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## EPA Contact Information

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[www.epa.gov/superfund/fair-lawn-wellfield](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/fair-lawn-wellfield)

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For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact the EPA Regional Public Liaison Office: James Haklar, [Haklar.james@epa.gov](mailto:Haklar.james@epa.gov) or (732) 906-6817 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.



Location of the new groundwater treatment facility along 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.  
Shown here as a blue rectangle.