

Plumstead Township Fire at 5189 Stump Rd. Public Meeting

- ▶ Senator Chuck McIlhinney
- ▶ Representative Marguerite Quinn
- ▶ PA Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Bucks County Health Department
- ▶ Plumstead Township



Fire Details

- ▶ June 29, 2010
- ▶ Two ponds located in the vicinity of the fire
- ▶ Several nearby ponds
- ▶ Water from the Point Pleasant Diversion
- ▶ Approx. 3 million gallons



Property Details

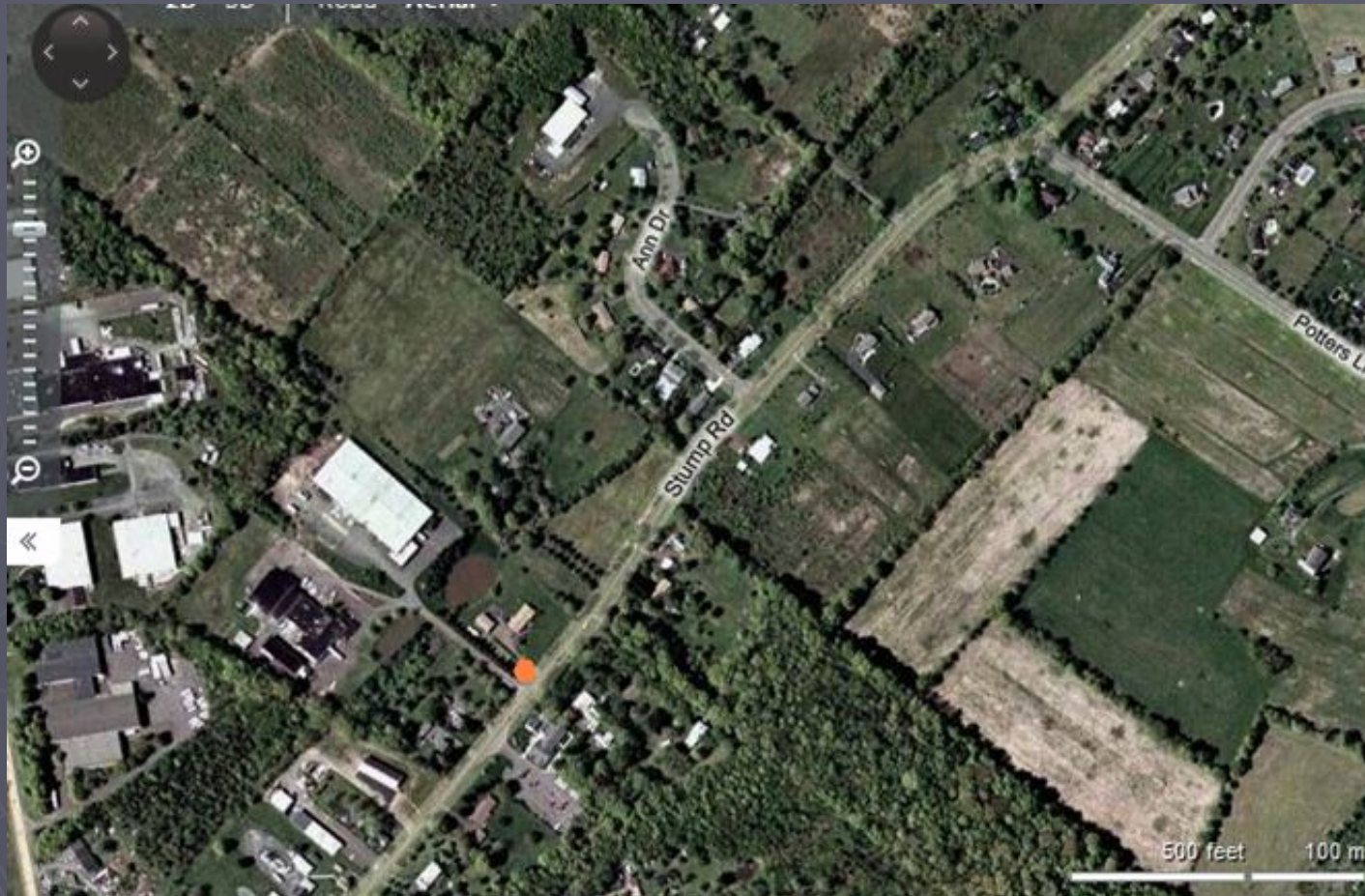
Property ownership:

- Dennis K. Rice (primary contact)
- Dale L. Cotton
- Raymond W. Patridge

Businesses involved:

- Custom Particle Reduction, Inc (CPR)
- Hawk Mold & Die, Inc
- Bucks County Trading Post
- Nutri-Pet Research, Inc.

Impacted Area



Samples Taken

VOA (Volatile Organic Compounds)

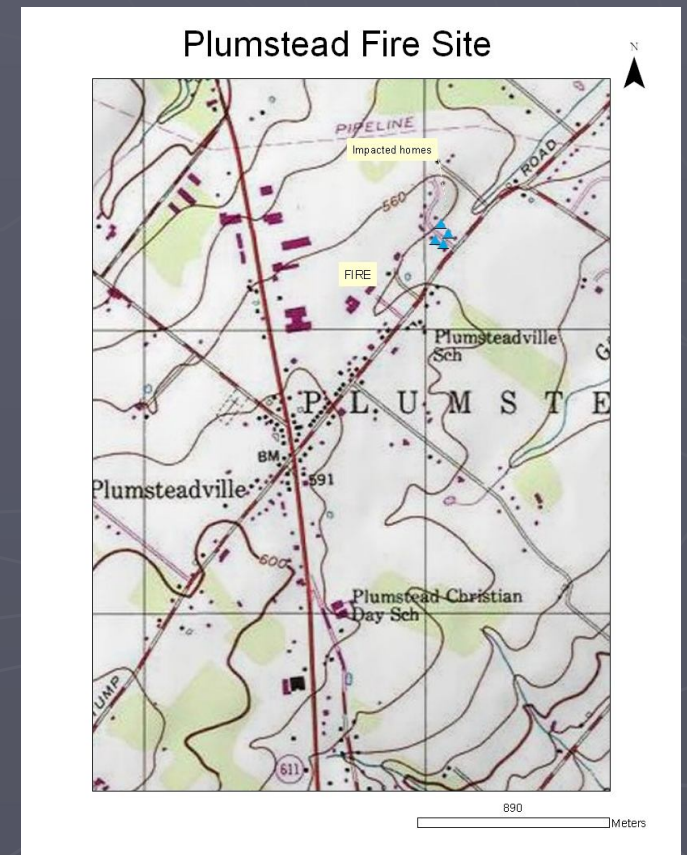
Bacteria

Metals (test 160)

Metals (test 161)

Semi-VOAs*

* Only at select locations



BCHD Efforts

- ▶ 7/8/10, BCHD samples first private well
- ▶ 7/21/10, BCHD samples additional private wells
- ▶ 7/13-7/20/10, First well results detecting benzene and Antimony
- ▶ 7/28/10, Partial additional well samples results return detecting benzene
- ▶ Requested CPR/D. Rice to provide bottled water to impacted residents
- ▶ 7/29/10, DEP Water Management assigned
- ▶ Coordinated with other programs at DEP

DEP Water Management Efforts

- ▶ 7/30/10, Sample and data collection, fire property
- ▶ Met with property owners to assess their current situation
- ▶ 8/2/10, Coordinated sampling effort with BCHD, prepared bottles
- ▶ 8/3/10, conducted round 1 sampling of residential wells
- ▶ 8/4/10, conducted round 2 sampling residential wells

DEP Water Management Efforts (cont.)

- ▶ 8/5/10, Began evaluation of sampling data
- ▶ Held meeting with residents whose wells were sampled to date
- ▶ 8/5/10, Issued an order to 5189 Stump property owners and CPR
- ▶ 8/6/10, Provided sampling results to residents
- ▶ Continued to evaluate data/coordinate with the lab
- ▶ 8/7/10, 3rd round of sampling
- ▶ Continued to evaluate data

Requirements of the Order

- ▶ Provide bottled water to impacted residents.
- ▶ Provide interim whole house water to impacted residents.
- ▶ Remove the water from the ponds.
- ▶ Prevent stormwater from entering the ponds until they are cleaned out.
- ▶ Submit plan to clean up soil and sediment contamination.

Requirements of the Order (cont.)

- ▶ Provide a list of all material in the building at the time of the fire, include MSDS sheets.
- ▶ Provide list of all violations issued to CPR by any local, state, or federal regulatory authority.
- ▶ Contract with a professional geologist to determine the extent of groundwater contamination resulting from the fire fighting runoff.

DEP's HSCA Involvement

- ▶ Providing a temporary water supply through tankers to affected residents. (Access agreements are needed.)
- ▶ If the responsible parties do not comply with the Department's order, HSCA will continue its response action. If appropriate, HSCA will begin working on a permanent potable water supply source for the affected residents. This may include deeper wells, public water line extension etc.
- ▶ Monitoring wells may be installed in the area to characterize the contamination and monitor the plume movement at the site.
- ▶ Based on results, if necessary, remediation of groundwater will be carried out.
- ▶ The Department will pursue cost recovery.

Sampling Results to Date

- ▶ 30 properties sampled (25 homes)
- ▶ Detections of benzene (uncertainty)
- ▶ Detections in "blanks"
- ▶ Sodium benzoate indicators
- ▶ Antimony
- ▶ Bacteria
- ▶ Algae

Next Steps

- ▶ Evaluation of all data – interpretation is key
- ▶ Determination of whether impact from the fire is acute or chronic
- ▶ Follow-up on the Order
- ▶ Ongoing communication
- ▶ Remaining sample results provided by BCHD

Contacts

- ▶ Bucks County Health Department
 - Well concerns or sampling results.
 - 215. 345-3318
- ▶ DEP
 - 484.250.5991



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION