

HEALTH

CARE

PROVIDER

Update No. 3

November 1996

## Dover Township

# Childhood Cancer Investigation

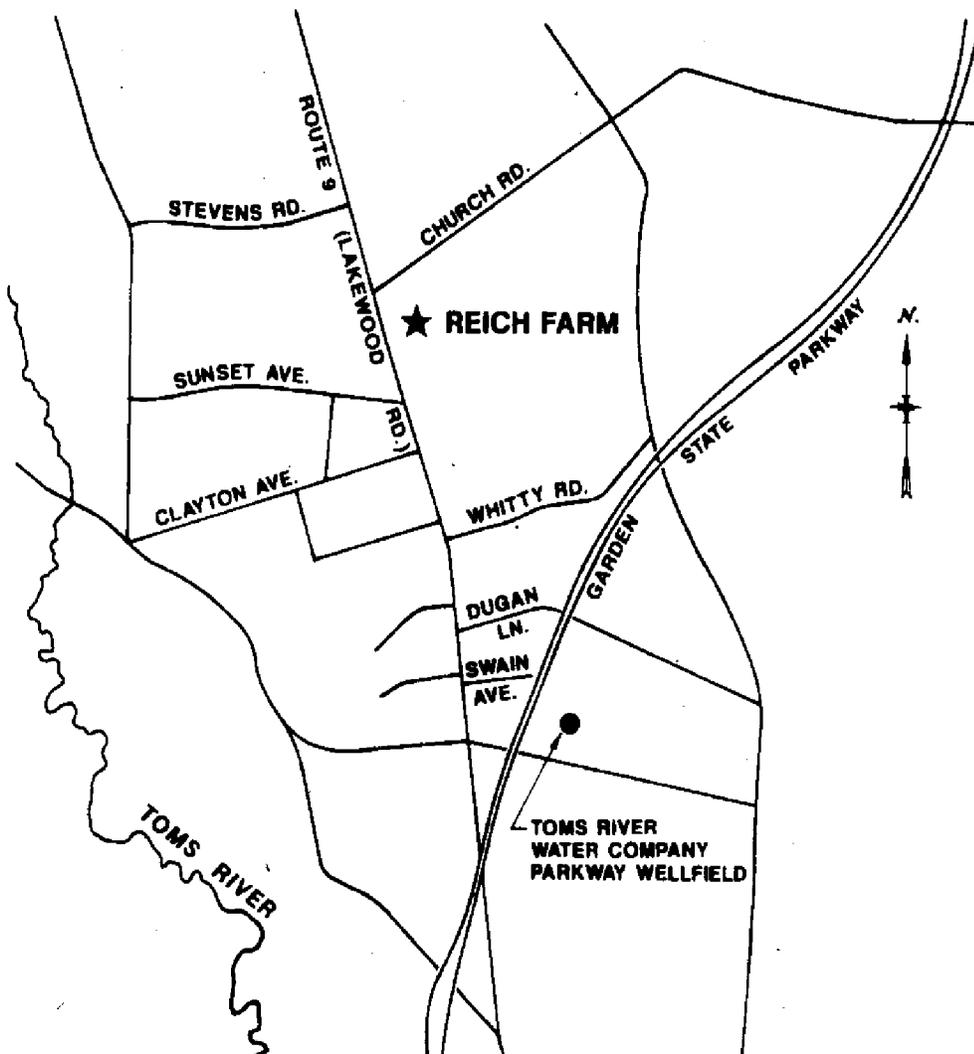
## Reich Farm Health Consultation

As part of the response to concerns about childhood cancer incidence in Dover Township, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is conducting a Health Consultation for the Reich Farm Superfund site in Dover Township, concurrent with the consultation on the Ciba-Geigy Superfund site. This update will provide you with an overview of issues related to the Reich Farm Health Consultation.

### Site History

The Reich Farm site occupies an area of approximately 3 acres in the Pleasant Plains area of Dover Township, near the intersection of Route 9 and Church Road. In early 1971, the Union Carbide Corporation contracted with an independent waste hauler to remove up to 6,000 drums of chemical waste from its Bound Brook plant, for disposal in Dover Township. The wastes consisted of organic wash solvents, still bottoms, and residues from the manufacture of organic chemicals, plastics, and resins.

In late 1971, approximately 4,500 of these drums were discovered on the Reich Farm property. Trenches were also found on the property in which bulk wastes were deposited. The drums were removed from the Reich Farm property by 1974.



Reich Farm and surrounding area

In 1974, residents in Pleasant Plains noticed unusual taste and odor in their private well water. Wells were found to be contaminated with volatile organic chemicals and base neutral extractable compounds. Soil contamination from Reich Farm was found to be the cause of the groundwater contamination, and 148 private wells were closed. A well restriction area associated with Reich Farm was established.

In 1986, volatile organic chemicals (trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene) were found in two municipal wells. This contamination was later found to be part of the Reich Farm groundwater contaminant plume. Groundwater treatment was initiated for these wells. In late 1994 and early 1995, 14,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils were treated at Reich Farm to diminish the continuance of groundwater contamination.

### **Actions Planned Under the Public Health Response Plan**

The NJDHSS is conducting a Health Consultation for the Reich Farm Superfund site. As with the Ciba-Geigy Health Consultation, its purpose is to better define past and present human exposure to off-site contamination. Particular emphasis will be placed on potable and groundwater contamination, especially the municipal well fields.

### **Actions That Have Occurred to Date**

The NJDHSS and ATSDR have met with the Citizen Action Committee on Childhood Cancer Cluster, Ocean County Health Department staff, and other established citizens' groups to determine previously impacted private and municipal wells. Review of existing records established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Ocean

County Health Department on Reich Farm's impact on off-site areas is in progress. An environmental sampling plan to further identify the potential for human exposure to site-related contamination has been developed, and sampling is underway. Analytical results will be included in the Health Consultation. A toxicological review of contaminants is underway at ATSDR headquarters in Atlanta.

### **Time Frame for Completion**

It is expected that the final draft of the Reich Farm Health Consultation report will be completed by this winter. When the consultation is finalized, an update will be prepared and forwarded to health care providers.

---

### ***Dover Township Childhood Cancer Investigation***

NJ Department of Health and  
Senior Services  
Consumer and Environmental  
Health Services  
CN 360  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360  
(609) 984-2193

*This update is supported in whole by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act trust fund, through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, US Department of Health and Human Services.*