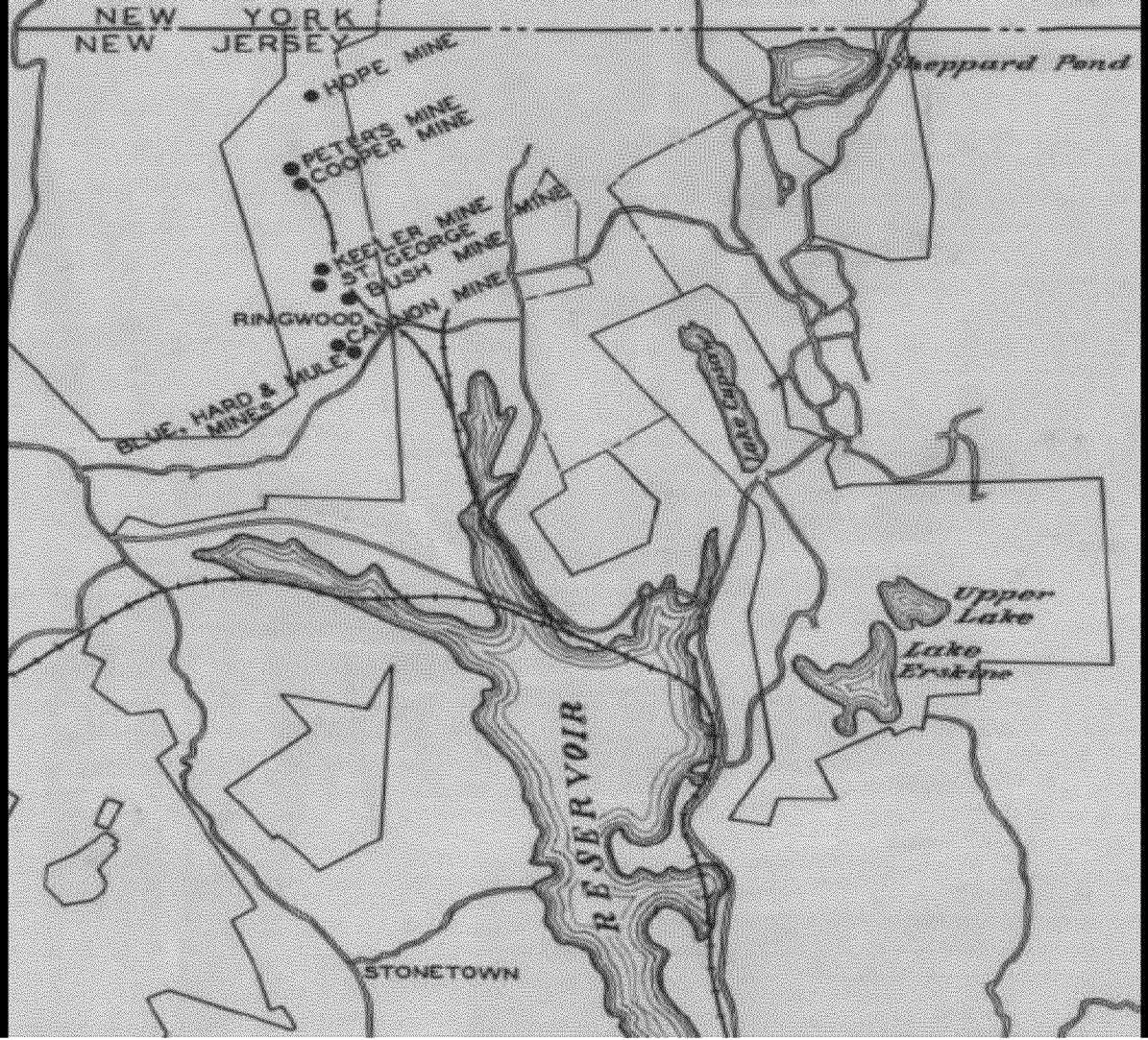
Ringwood Mines Superfund Site
Community Advisory Group Meeting

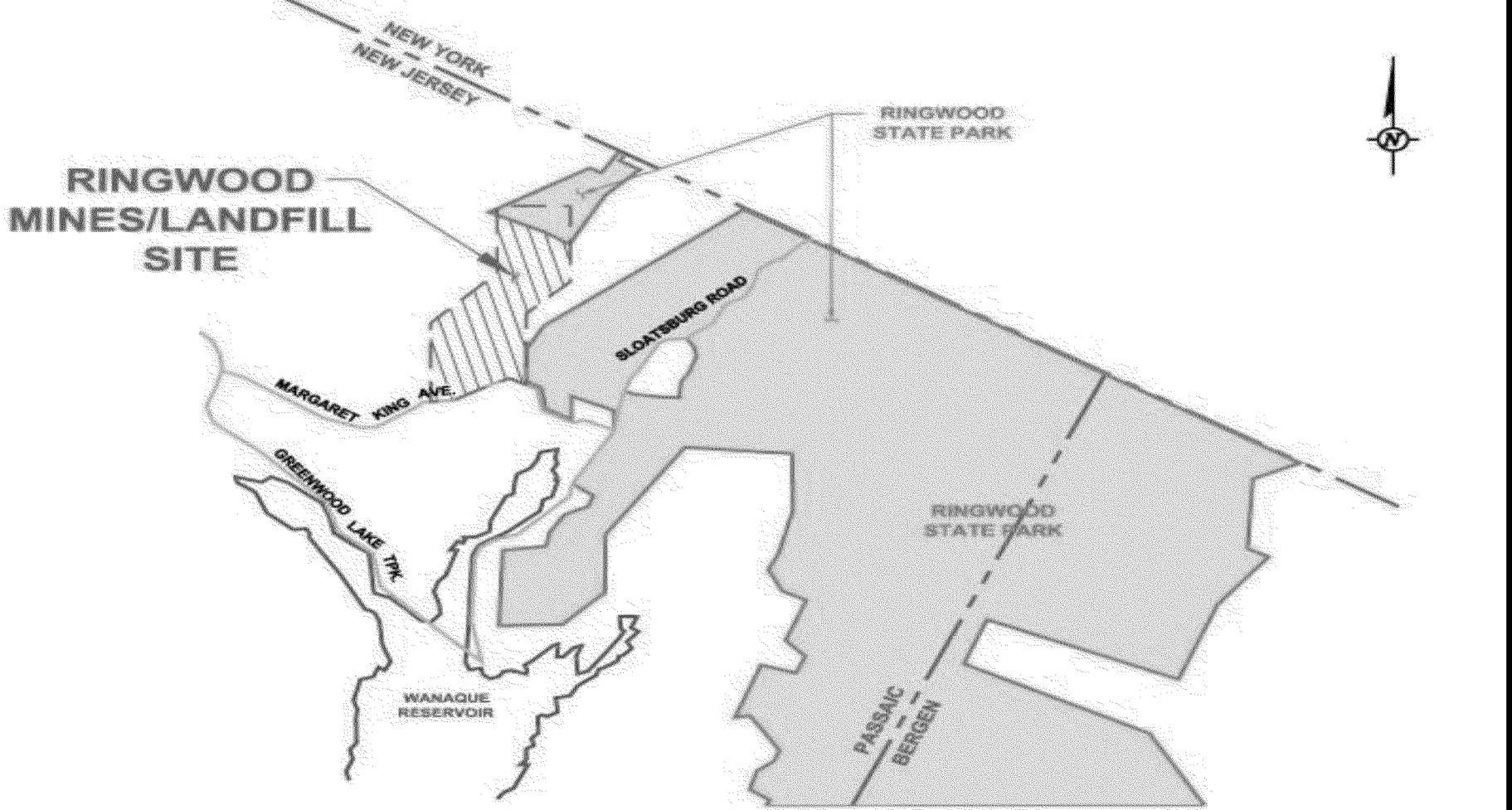
July 13, 2017

Ringwood Library, Ringwood, NJ

Peter’s Mine, 1947



Hope Mine
Peters Mine
Cooper Mine
Keeler Mine
St. George Mine
Bush Mine
Cannon Mine
Blue Mine
Hard Mine
Mule Mine



RINGWOOD MINES/LANDFILL SITE LOCATION

ARCADIS
www.arcadis-us.com

The first smelting furnace was established by the Ogden Family in 1742 in Ringwood.

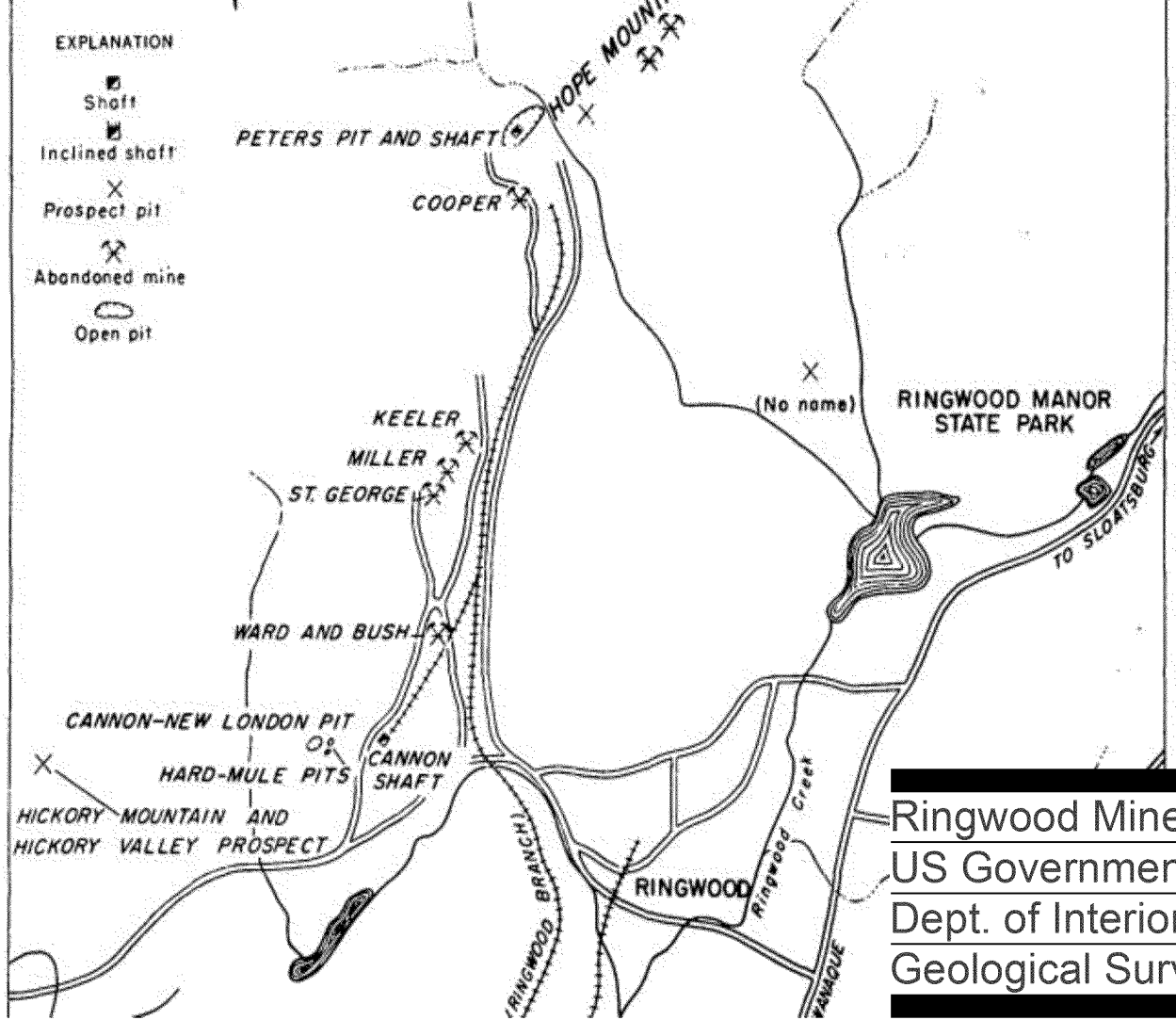
In 1764, a group consisting of some of the Ogden family sold the Ringwood ironworks to Peter Hansenclever in 1764.

Operation of the ironworks at Ringwood were devoted to iron needed for the Revolution during the war, and it was exclusively operated as such by a Robert Erskine, who later became George Washington's cartographer.

Martin Ryerson owned the iron works thereafter (all 18,000 acres) and 500,000 tons of ore had been mined at that point.

The Hewitts bought the ironworks in the mid 1800's and supplied iron for the Civil War but in 1893, most work stopped.

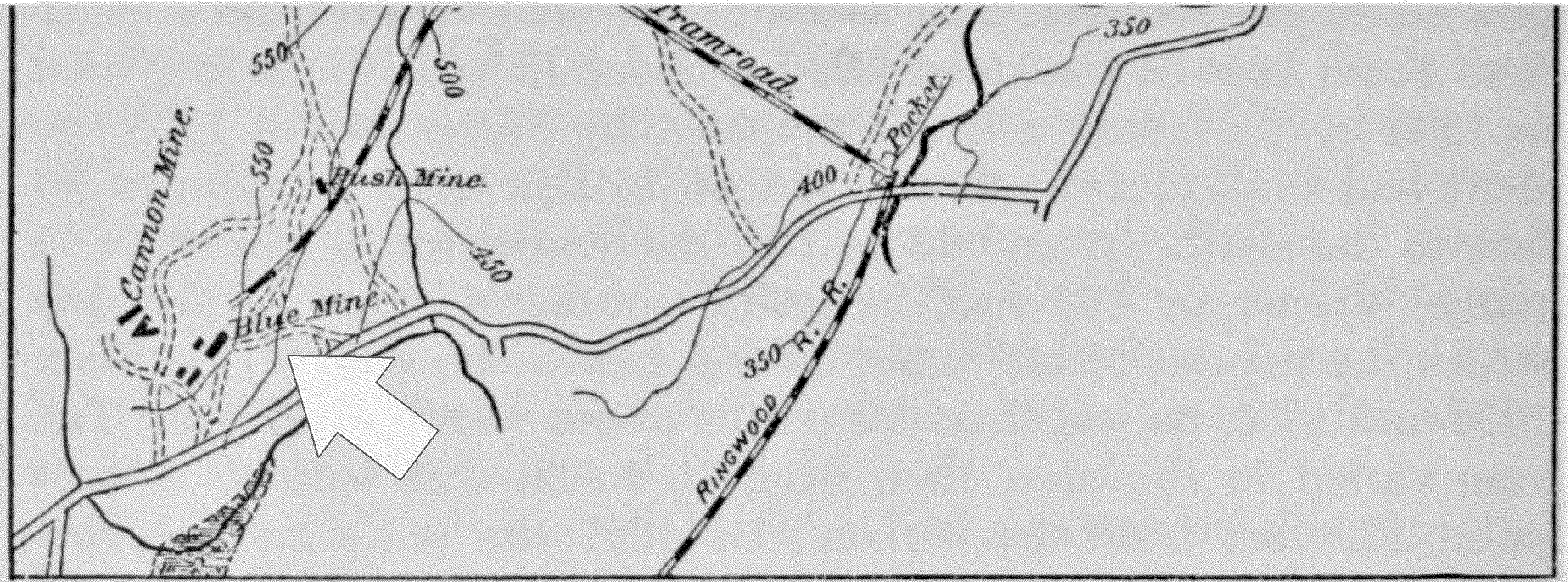
The United States government bought the Ringwood Mines in 1942 and had them dewatered by an Allen Wood Steel Company.



Ringwood Mines 1952, US Government Dept. of Interior, Geological Survey

Blue Mine - 400 foot deep, near Cannon Mine.

Vanishing ironworks of the Ran
← Back to book details on Open Library
Return Book
PDF/ePub
Search ins



The Ringwood group of mines in 1880.

Cannon Mine - 500 feet deep; open pit of 200 feet wide, and later, another open pit of 60 feet wide made to the east.

A vertical shaft sunk to the east allowed the Cannon, New London, Mule and Hard Mines all to be worked.

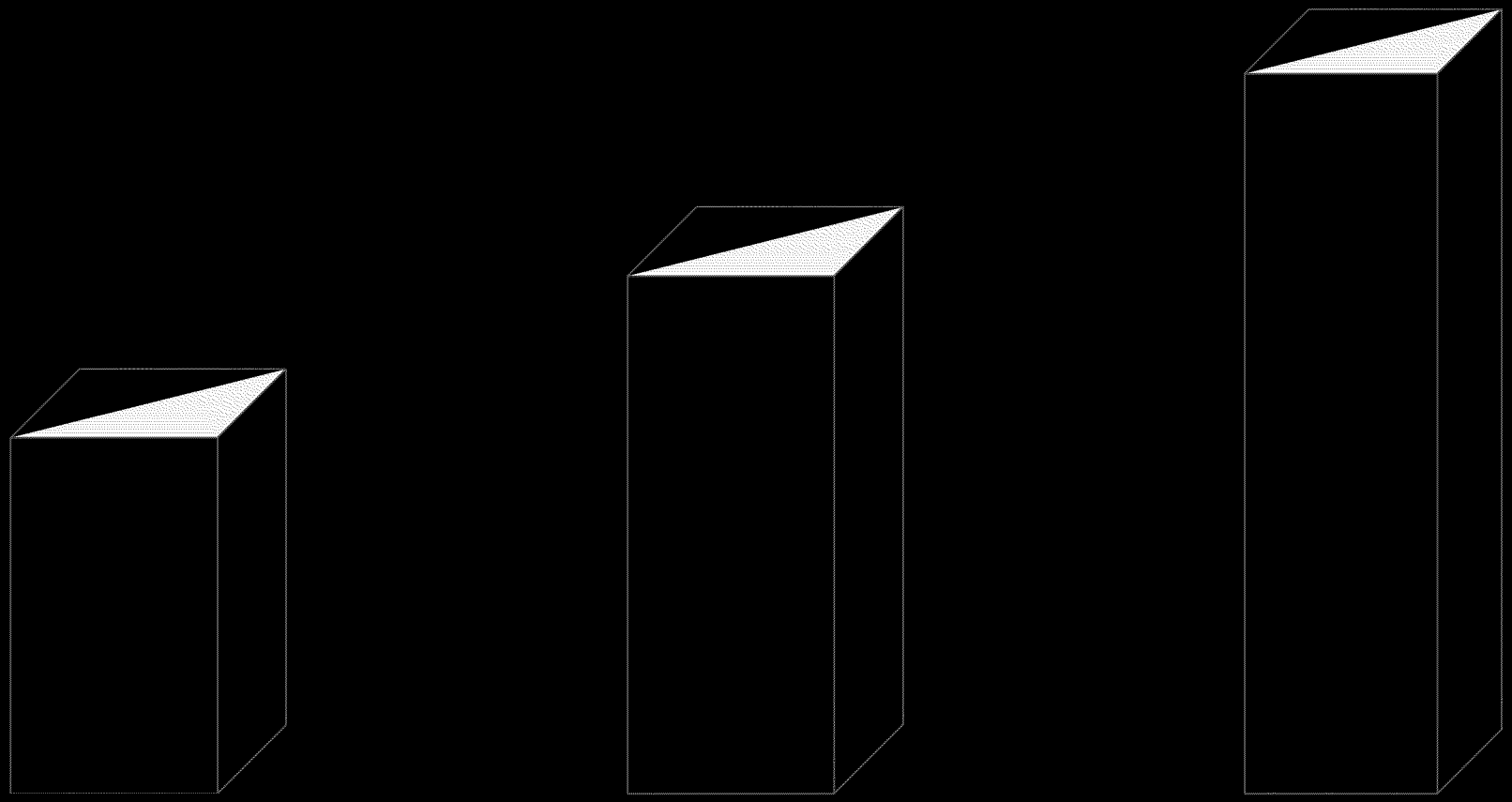
made to the east of the old
opening was 60 feet wide.
east which enabled the Ca
shoots to be worked from th
from 1884–86, but in 1890
to be active for a number of y

Some of the interior work
limited scale, and the vastn
prises visitors. The large
erected in 1915 which lowe
ing.[1] The loaded cars were
ground, where the ore was
emptied it into railroad c
the sky the tower, with its tw
mark.

Cooper Mine—Opened abou
was located about 500-feet s
until 1873. The vein was 10
and in one place the depth
longer visible.

Hard Mine—Opened before

Cannon Mine

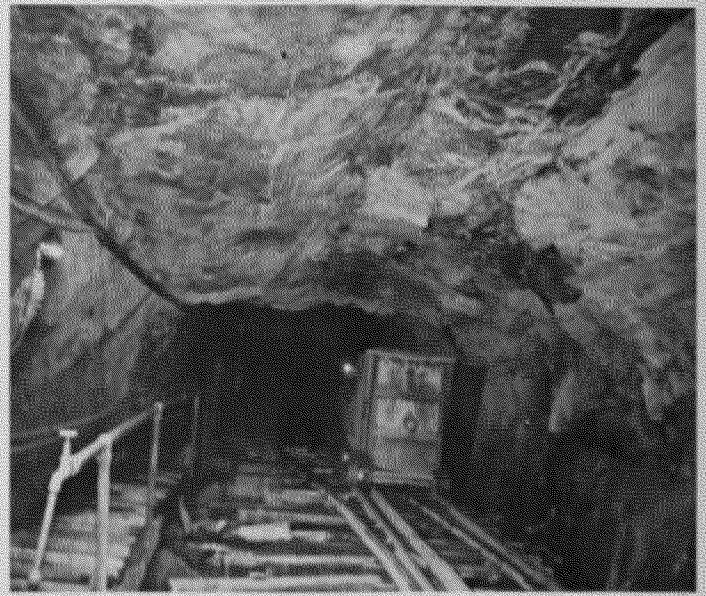


Empire State Building, 1,454 feet.

Peter's Mine, 1,800 feet..

Peter's Mine Shaft, 2,400 ft.

Vanishing ironworks of the Ran
← Back to book details on Open Library
Return Book
PDF/ePub
Search inside this book



Four views of the bottom of the Peters Mine, 2400 feet down. *Photos by Raymond S. Darrenougué*

The seventeenth, and lowest, level. See facing page

Page 267 of 382
ED_001829_00000072-00015

Vanishing ironworks of the Ran
← Back to book details on Open Library
Return Book
PDF/ePub
Search inside this book

Four views of the bottom of the Peters Mine, 2400 feet down. *Photos by Raymond S. Darrenougué.*

The seventeenth, and lowest, level. See facing page.

Peters Mine.

The Borough of Ringwood obtained title to the property in the 1950's due to foreclosure and they then marketed the property as a 14,000 square foot warehouse underground (on the 17th level).

Ringwood Realty and Ford Motor Company appeared in the chain of title to various parcels of the property in the 60's and thereafter.

Today, the State of NJ owns much of the 500 acre site.

In the 1960s and 1970s Ford Motor Company, the Borough of Ringwood and others regularly dumped waste in and around the mines.

Ford dumped paint sludge, car parts and industrial waste.

The government closed a landfill in the 1976 after it was determined contaminants were leaching into groundwater underneath the site.

The 500 acre site is put on the Superfund List in 1984.

In 2005 the Bergen Record completed an eight-month investigation, published as a five-part series, Toxic Legacy (available online), on the Ringwood site. It found extensive contamination in the community and the Site was put back on the Superfund list, the first time this has ever happened in the history of the Superfund.

http://toxiclegacy.northjersey.com/

Jan Barry, reporter and award winning journalist.

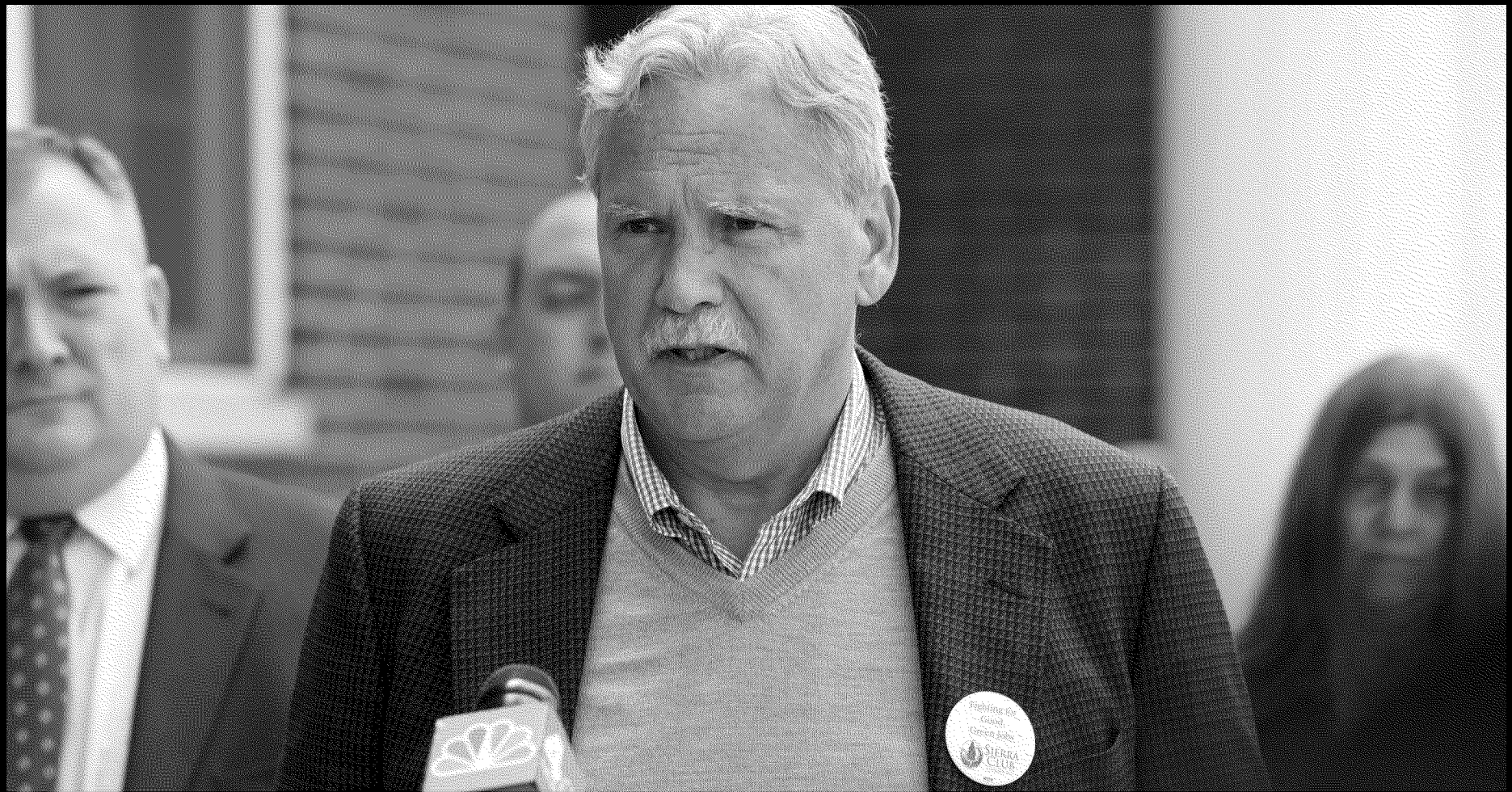
Jan Barry

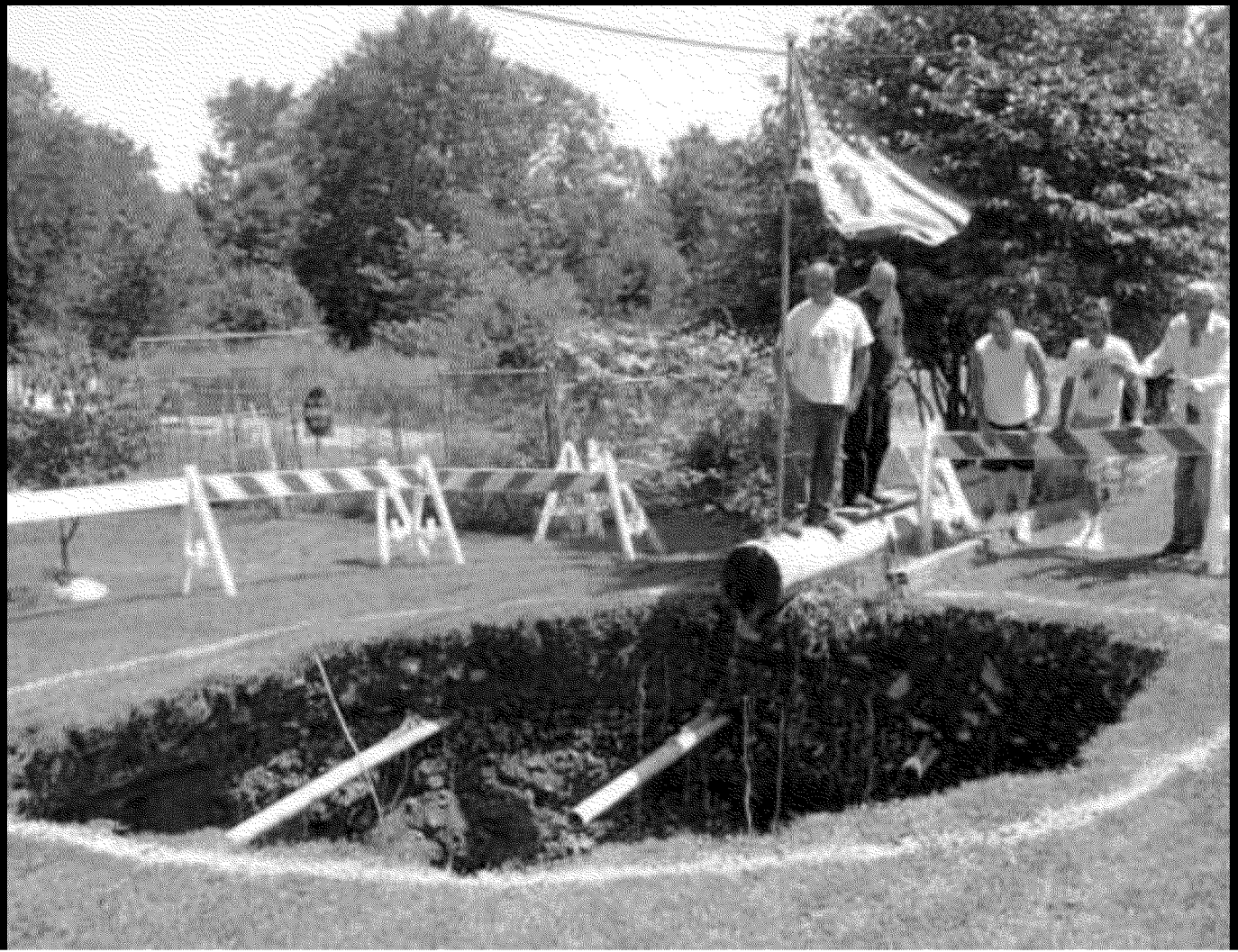
Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey Sierra Club

Mr. Tittel is a local and has familiarity with the Site having worked for many years as an advocate for the community and the millions of people who rely on the drinking water we secure from the nearby Wanaque Reservoir.

Mr. Tittel brought Jan Barry, the reporter from the Record, to the Site and gave him the lead for the story Toxic Legacy which led to the relisting of the Site on the National Superfund List.

Mr. Tittel also arranged for us to have insurance for this meeting and we thank him and the Sierra Club.


Fighting for
Good
Green Jobs
SIERRA
CLUB



The Ford Plant in Mahwah.

Made 1,000 cars per day.

Employed 4,000 people.

Dumped daily waste in the Ramapo Mountains by trucks.

“The Ramapo Mountains have been a proverbial oasis for the Ramapough Indians, an offspring tribe of the Delaware Munsee Nation. Commonplace native practices in the area include sustenance hunting, farming, and fishing. And this mountain range, has provided sufficient resources for a practicing Native American culture for centuries.

But, situated only 25 miles from New York City, the Ramapo Mountain region has succumbed to a metamorphosis underwent in the modern development of the region, and native culture has shifted, voluntarily or not, in alignment with this movement.

The local Ramapough Indian population has tried to stay true to their practices, but overtime the ecocentric based lifestyle of their culture has become a gateway for material based institutions to exploit their populace, leaving them only able to survive by conforming to the corporate structures of our current society.”

Matt Morgan, Ramapough Indians Remain Forgotten Amidst Election Crisis, https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/exploitation-ecocentric-ramapough-indians-remain-forgotten-amidst-election-crisis, January 2017.

Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation Powwow, Ringwood, NJ.

Ringwood Creek, Ringwood.

“To any Native American tribe, the purity of their land is held in high regard, and any pollution presents not only spiritual repercussions, but threats to their livelihood. In the Ramapo Mountains, the natives have relied upon, wild turkeys and deer in the forests, and bass in the streams, as substantial food sources.

Thus, any pollution on their land would leave them searching for another way to sustain themselves. So, when a major motor company, Ford Motor Co. came to Mahwah, NJ, and built the largest auto manufacturing plant in the country at the time in 1955, one would assume they would employ slight regard for the indigenous folk in the area and properly discard of their toxic waste, sure to not upset the ecosystem the native population is dependent on.”

Matt Morgan, Ramapough Indians Remain Forgotten Amidst Election Crisis, https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/exploitation-ecocentric-ramapough-indians-remain-forgotten-amidst-election-crisis, January 2017.

Silver Lake, Mahwah.

“Ford Motor Co., over a four-year period from 1967-1971, dumped industrial waste material in the Ramapough Indians reservation. Most of the waste was in the form of “paint sludge”, a deadly mix of toxic chemicals, including, Freon, heavy metals, lead, and arsenic that saturated the soil and traveled through the air when the highly combustible chemicals ignited and burned.

Many families in the native community suffers from in some form of these illnesses, cancer, diabetes, kidney stones, miscarriage, asthma, gastrointestinal disease, and skin disorders.”

Matt Morgan, Ramapough Indians Remain Forgotten Amidst Election Crisis, https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/exploitation-ecocentric-ramapough-indians-remain-forgotten-amidst-election-crisis, January 2017.

“The State of New Jersey openly warned Ramapough residents in 2007, as to the contamination of local wildlife populations. They specifically pointed to lead contamination in squirrels, a source of food the Ramapough Indians have relied on for ages (The Canadian Press, "N.J. Warns Residents That Squirrel Meat May Be Contaminated by Toxic Dump”).”

Matt Morgan, Ramapough Indians Remain Forgotten Amidst Election Crisis, https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/exploitation-ecocentric-ramapough-indians-remain-forgotten-amidst-election-crisis, January 2017.

Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation Powwow, Ringwood, NJ.

“A full excavation of the site was estimated to cost Ford Motor Company, and Ringwood Township $32.6 million. In 2013, Ringwood proposed a plan that was later approved by the EPA, to build a recycling center on the site, which slightly deregulates the area, making a legal “cleanup” cost $5.4 million. Included in this plan is to “cap” the polluted areas, by covering the contaminated soil with topsoil and asphalt (Stewart, "EPA OKs Ringwood Recycling Center atop Superfund Site.").”

Tainted Stream, photo by Rudy Ruda, as published on Ramapo Lookout, Jan Barry's blog, as part of a college class study on the Ringwood Mines Superfund Site.

Introduction of the Group Members:

Chief Vincent Mann - chief of the Turtle Clan

Judith Sullivan, Esq. - chair of Ramapough Conservancy

Ms. Wenke Taule - former mayor of Ringwood

Ms. Robin Canetti - local resident

Mr. Douglas Ruccione - local resident

Mr. Ben Nemser - local resident

Ms. Lisa Chiang - local resident

Mr. Robert Spiegel - chair, Edison Wetlands

Mr. Jeff Tittel - director, NewJersey Sierra Club

Ms. Vivian Milligan - local resident

Purpose of the group by Chief Mann.

Chief Vincent Mann, Chief of the Turtle Clan, Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation.

Invitation to contact us: telephone, email, or Facebook.

Chief Vincent Mann - 862-862-274-0023
Judith Sullivan, Esq. - 973-204-6844 or judithjoansullivan@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/Ramapough-Conservancy-169348366482237/

Delivery of the Community Action Plan by Ms. Seppi.

Patricia Seppi
Community Involvement Coordinator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
seppi.pat@epa.gov (646) 369-0068

Status of the Remediation Effort at the Superfund Site by Joseph Gowers, US EPA and Mayor Speer, Mayor, Ringwood.

Joseph Gowers, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) gowers.joe@epa.gov (212) 637-4413

First phase recommendation is written by Mr. Joseph Gowers, USEPA.

Permeable cap and some soil excavation.

A detention pond.

Rebuilding of the recycling center update by Mayor Speer, Ringwood.

Second phase is not yet written (groundwater) (status).

Joe Gowers
EPA Project Manager, Ringwood

Update on latest information released by the US EPA and the North Jersey Water Commission by Judith Sullivan and Charles Shotmeyer (invited), Chair, North Jersey Water Commission.

North Jersey Water Commission Report by Charles Shotmeyer.
http://www.northjersey.com/story/news/environment/2017/06/19/report-contamination-ringwood-could-threaten-wanaque-reservoir/399749001/

Recommends a pump and treat station at Peter's Mine Pit for 1,4 contaminated groundwater and additional testing wells.

The Wanaque Reservoir does not currently have the ability to clean the water to remove 1,4 dioxane.

Permit Equivalent Applications submitted by Ford in Fall of 2016, and can be found on Ramapough Conservancy's Facebook Page.

1,4-Dioxane has been found in at least 31 of the 1,689 current or former NPL sites

1,4-Dioxane is a clear liquid with a faint pleasant odor. It mixes easily with water.

It is used as a solvent in the manufacture of other chemicals and as a laboratory reagent.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that 1,4-dioxane is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) considers 1,4-dioxane as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

The EPA has established that 1,4-dioxane is likely to be carcinogenic to humans

CAS ##	Contaminant Name	Contaminated Media	Area of Site Found (OU)	More Information
1746-01-6	2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORODIBENZO-p-DIOXIN (TCDD)	Debris	SITEWIDE (00)	
7440-38-2	ARSENIC	Ground Water	ORIGINAL REMEDY (01)	ATSDR Profile
7440-43-9	CADMIUM	Ground Water	ORIGINAL REMEDY (01)	ATSDR Profile
7439-92-1	LEAD	Soil	SITEWIDE (00)	ATSDR Profile
7439-92-1	LEAD, INORGANIC	Ground Water	ORIGINAL REMEDY (01)	ATSDR Profile
7439-92-1	LEAD, INORGANIC	Soil	ORIGINAL REMEDY (01)	ATSDR Profile
E966473	TOTAL PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS (TPH)	Soil	ORIGINAL REMEDY (01)	

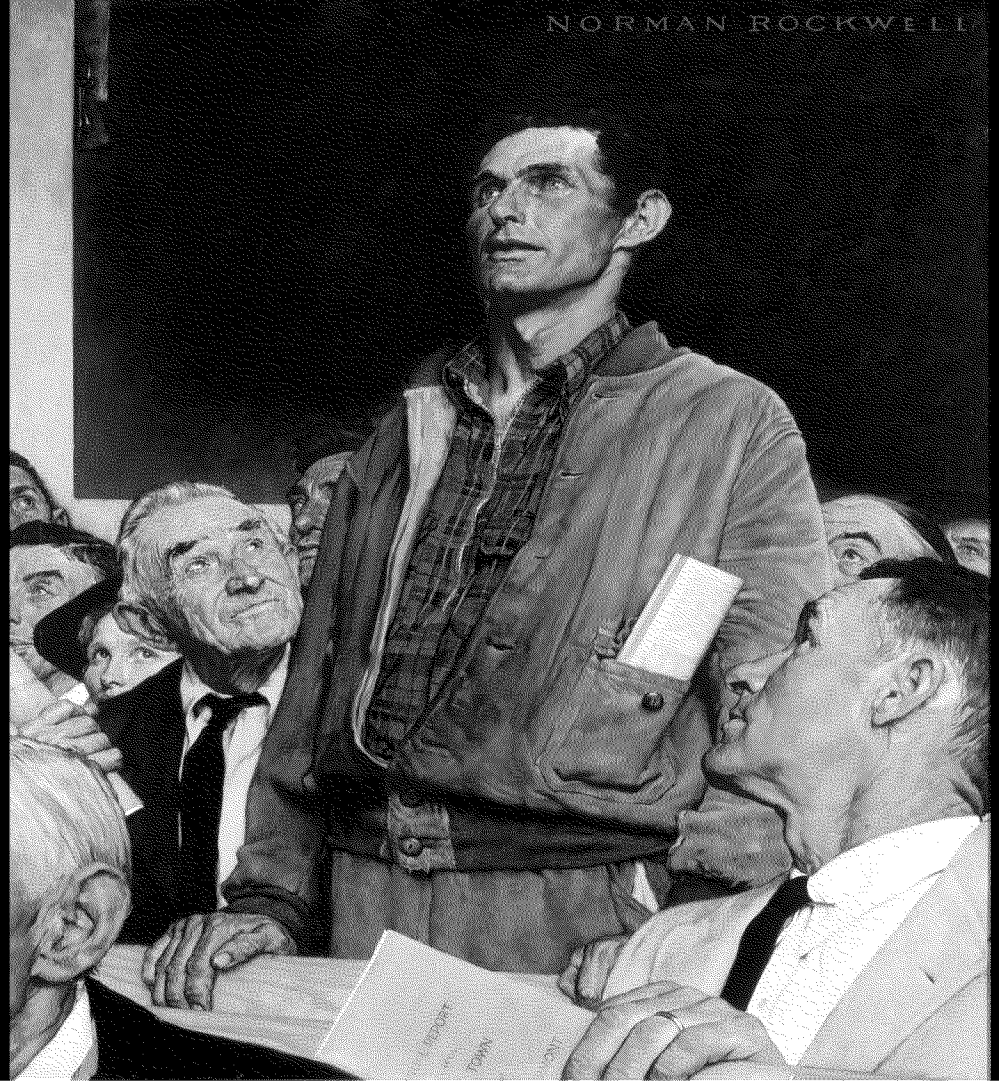
https://semspub.epa.gov/work/02/691466.pdf

NJ Water Supply Commission Report

Permit Equivalent Application

Questions from Audience

Identifying yourself is optional.



Funding for CAG by Judith Sullivan

CAG currently has no funding despite requests to EPA.

TAG and TAC short explanation.

A Technical Assistance Service Program for the Community involves hiring a contractor employed by the United States government to help the community interpret data and understand the processes involved in a Superfund site.
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program

A Technical Assistance Grant is a grant, with matching requirements, given to a non-profit corporation to help the community interpret data and understand the processes involved in a Superfund site.
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program.

Resolutions for the CAG to consider (even though the CAG is not incorporated, resolutions in spirit with good intention can be voted upon):

Resolution on the continued concern over documents being released without being live-streamed to the CAG.

Resolution on learning the cost and expense of SKEO and University of Virginia's Community Action Plan Project.

Resolution on sending a formal letter to the Office of Inspector General regarding a breach of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the NEPA in that the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation has not been invited to meetings between the EPA and the Potentially Responsible Parties.

Resolution on request for 30 years of testing proof from the US EPA cited in the latest equivalent permit applications as the CAG believes 30 years of continuous testing has not occurred.

Resolution on ascertaining the US EPA's intention to respond in action, if any, to the North Jersey Water Supply Commission Report.

Resolution on request that sentinel wells be installed in close proximity to the borough wells.

Resolution on request for 30 years of testing proof from the US EPA cited in the latest equivalent permit applications as the CAG believes 30 years of continuous testing has not occurred.

Resolution on ascertaining the US EPA's intention to respond in action, if any, to the North Jersey Water Supply Commission Report.

Resolution on request that sentinel wells be installed in close proximity to the borough wells.

Resolution for the USEPA to involve a geologist in the permit equivalent applications.

Resolution for the USEPA to provide a writing to the CAG within 30 days as to the documents printed and kept at the Ringwood Library as the official public repository for the Superfund Site.

Resolution for the CAG to honor Jan Barry at the next meeting for his role in investigative reporting leading the Superfund Site to be listed on the Superfund List, the first time in history a site was found to be insufficiently cleaned up by the EPA.

New sinkhole 2017,
Ringwood

More questions from the Audience by Judith Sullivan

David Johnson, Ramapo Study, 1873

Approval of last meeting’s minutes.