

Environmental Study to be conducted in Eastern Heights

MEET & GREET

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015; 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

GRENADA CITY AUDITORIUM
17 N. Main Street, Grenada, MS

Introduction:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with various parties to conduct a limited vapor intrusion study at select homes in the Eastern Heights residential community located close to the Grenada Stamping facility. This study is part of a precautionary approach to protect public health and the environment. A vapor intrusion study is necessary to evaluate whether site-related contamination, primarily the solvent trichloroethylene (TCE), may be entering structures in the form of a gas (or vapor) from contamination below ground (also referred to as vapor intrusion to indoor air (see Figure 1)).

Key players:

The EPA is an agency of the U.S. federal government which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.

The site of what is now known as Grenada Stamping was constructed in 1961. Since its construction, the site and operations were bought and sold various times. Currently, Grenada Manufacturing, LLC is the owner of the site. Throughout most of the site's history, the facility was used to manufacture automobile wheel covers. Now the facility provides stamp-formed parts for vehicles and other various industries. For the purposes of this study, Arcadis is the contractor who will be carrying out the work.

Why we are here:

Environmental sampling results from groundwater and soil vapor collected on the edge of the Eastern Heights community have revealed a potential concern for contaminants trapped in groundwater that may possibly be traveling off of the facility's property line into the nearby community.

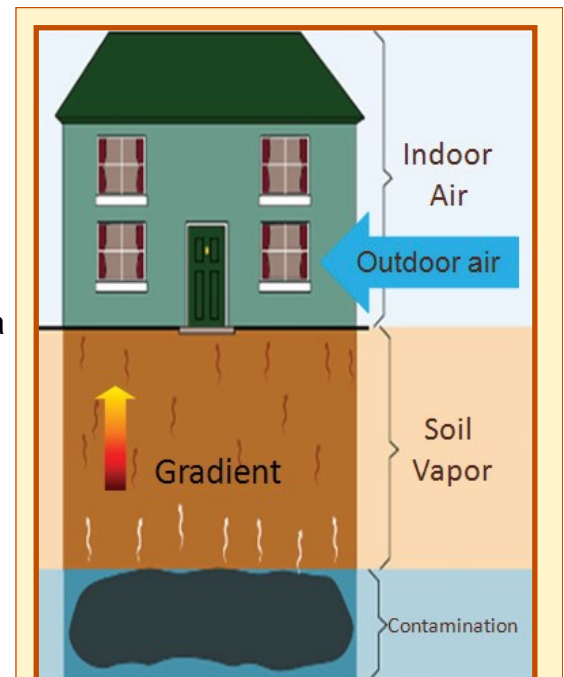


Figure 1: "Vapor intrusion" is the movement of chemicals in the soil or groundwater that become a gas easily and can travel into the indoor air of overlying buildings. These chemicals include those called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethylene (TCE) which is a contaminant at the Grenada site.

Refer to Fact Sheet "What You Should Know About Vapor Intrusion" for more information.

http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/dover/vapor_intrusion_eng_030807.pdf

What to expect:

The EPA will canvas the neighborhood to inform residents of the vapor intrusion study in mid-August 2015. EPA will personally meet with the residents of the homes that will be part of the limited vapor intrusion study. EPA will hold a Meet & Greet session for the entire Eastern Heights community on Tuesday September 1, 2015 from 5-8pm at the Grenada City Auditorium. Representatives from EPA, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ— the State environmental agency) as well as representatives from the Grenada facility will be available to answer any questions.

Communication is key:

The EPA is committed to keeping the community informed every step of the way. More fact sheets detailing the progress as well as the results of the study will be forthcoming. Additional Meet & Greet sessions, as well as other meetings will be held where community members can interact with EPA and MDEQ representatives to obtain more information and ask questions.



An example of a sub-slab vapor sampling.

Regulatory Basis for Study:

The Congressional law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA, pronounced 'rick-ra') authorizes EPA to require facilities to examine the nature and extent of their potential pollution to protect human health and/or the environment. The lead regulatory program on the investigation and cleanup at the Grenada facility is the EPA's RCRA Corrective Action program in the Southeast Region 4 Office in Atlanta, GA. The current investigation is being taken under the terms of the current RCRA Corrective Action Permit.

What is TCE?

TCE, trichloroethylene, is a non-flammable, colorless liquid used as a solvent for cleaning metal parts. It is a common groundwater contaminant. TCE dissolves in water, but it can remain in groundwater for a long time. Trichloroethylene quickly evaporates from surface water, so it is commonly found as a vapor in the air.

The health effects of TCE depend upon the pathway exposure, amount and length of exposure to the chemical. Long-term exposure to TCE vapors could pose a potential health risk. Possible health effects are nerve, kidney or liver damage. Some studies have shown TCE to cause cancer to these organs.

EPA is working on this site with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal health agency under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ATSDR officials are available to advise residents on health issues related to TCE.

For more information on TCE:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA Community Engagement Coordinator:

Brian Holtzclaw, 404-562-8684; 404-821-0697 (cell) or holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov

EPA Technical Protect Manager:

Brian Bastek, 404-562-8511 or bastek.brian@epa.gov

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR, a Federal Health Agency):

Carl Blair, 404-562-1786 or blair.carl@epa.gov

Information Repository: Elizabeth Jones Library, 1050 Fairfield Avenue, Grenada, MS 38902.

Website link is currently under construction.