



DOVER GAS LIGHT SUPERFUND SITE

Dover, Kent County, Delaware



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Fact Sheet

February 2004

EPA BEGINS NEW PHASE OF WORK AT SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin collecting samples to find out how groundwater became contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE), a common chemical used in the dry cleaning industry. Workers will begin sampling from the area around Capitol Cleaners on Governors Avenue and at the bus depot on New Street in Dover, Delaware sometime this month.

The samples will help EPA:

- Find out where the PCE came from.
- Map the location and extent of PCE contamination in the groundwater.
- Design ways to clean up the contamination.

WHAT YOU WILL NOTICE

Workers from EPA will be in the area to collect samples from soil, soil gas, and from the groundwater. To do this, EPA will use the following sampling methods:

Soil Sampling:

- Instruments will detect PCE in real-time, which means workers will know almost immediately whether or not PCE is in the soil, and that will help EPA identify where to take more samples.
- Drill equipment will be used to bore 10 to 25 feet below the surface into the soil. The samples are removed from the boring and then sent to a laboratory for study.

Soil Gas Sampling:

- Hollow tubes will be inserted into the soil. Using a pump, air from the soil is sucked out through a tube into a canister. The canister will be sent to the laboratory for study.
- EPA will sample soil vapors around the foundations of five buildings within Dover's central district. The tubes will be inserted at a depth of four to 12 feet.

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WHY IS EPA BACK IN DOVER?

EPA is currently studying the PCE contamination associated with Capitol Cleaners. The PCE was first found when EPA was investigating contamination associated with the former Gas Plant in 1994. To clean up the PCE, EPA decided to first focus on the contaminated soils. A remedy, which included construction of a cap over the affected area, was proposed in 1997, and cleanup was completed in 1998. EPA will be conducting a Five-Year Review of this portion of the cleanup later in 2004 to ensure that it has been working. A notice will be placed in the *Delaware State News* and the *Dover Post* when EPA begins the review.

Technical Assistance Grant Available

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to \$50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, please contact **Amelia Libertz**, TAG Coordinator, at 1-800-553-2509 or libertz.amelia@epa.gov.

Site Background

EPA added the Dover Gas Light Superfund Site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds. The site consists of areas associated with Capitol Cleaners and the former Dover Gas Light Plant. EPA finished studying and cleaning up the contamination from the Dover Gas Light Plant in 1998. EPA is now studying the contamination from the dry cleaners. The results of the investigation will be used to plan further cleanup of the site.

Groundwater Sampling:

- EPA will install about 20 wells, called monitoring wells, in the ground.
- Groundwater can be collected much like the soil vapor – by drawing it through a tube into a collection bag and sending it to the laboratory for study.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Once EPA has gathered enough data to show the extent of the PCE, a remedy will be proposed and the community will have a chance to comment. A cleanup decision will be made after all comments have been considered. The remedy will be designed and then it will be constructed. A Five-Year Review will ensure that it is working effectively to protect human health and the environment.

Community Involvement

EPA encourages communities near Superfund sites to get involved in understanding the cleanup process and participating in the decision-making process. Your EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for this site is **Wendy Jastremski**. You may reach Wendy at 1-800-352-1973 ext. 4-5222 or jastremski.wendy@epa.gov for additional information or how you can get involved. You may also contact the Remedial Project Manager, **Anthony Iacobone**, at 1-800-352-1973 ext. 4-5237 or iacobone.anthony@epa.gov.

For more information, please visit the **Dover Public Library**, 45 South State Street, Dover, DE 19901, 302-736-7030, or www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/DE/dover-gas/index.htm.

EPA Update on Site Progress



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