



DOVER GAS LIGHT SUPERFUND SITE

Dover, Kent County, Delaware



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Fact Sheet

December 2003

EPA BEGINS SAMPLING TO FIND CONTAMINATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will take samples to find out how groundwater became contaminated with *perchloroethylene* (PCE), a common chemical used in the dry cleaning industry. Samples will be taken from the area around Capitol Cleaners on Governor Avenue in Dover, Delaware beginning in January 2004. 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 samplers will know almost immediately whether or not PCE is in the soil and helps EPA identify where to take additional 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 *SUMMA™ 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.

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.

GLOSSARY



Groundwater: The supply of fresh water found beneath the surface of the ground in empty areas between rocks and soil particles.

Perchloroethylene (PCE): A chlorinated *solvent* typically used by dry cleaners.

Solvent: A substance, usually liquid, that is capable of dissolving one or more other substances. A common example of a solvent is nail polish remover.

Soil gas: The air that exists between soil particles.

SUMMA™ canister: A stainless steel container that is used to collect air samples.

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.

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 215-814-5222 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 215-814-5237 or iacobone.anthony@epa.gov or visit the information repository for the site at:

Dover Public Library
45 South State Street
Dover, DE 19901
302-736-7030

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.

EPA Update on Site Progress



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