



EPA COMPLETES VAPOR INTRUSION ASSESSMENT AND NEW GROUNDWATER MONITORING

TEST RESULTS SHOW NO TCE INSIDE HOMES

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

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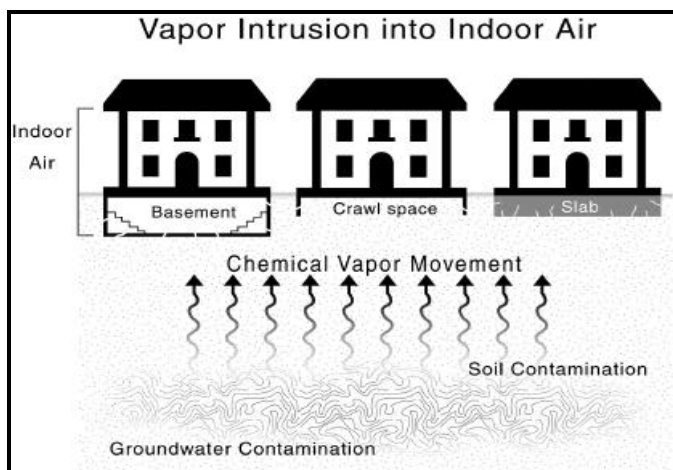
TESTS RESULTS SHOW NO TCE VAPORS IN HOMES

Results from EPA's recent vapor intrusion assessment found that no vapors from the chemical, trichloroethylene (TCE), were detected in the indoor air living space of the homes that were sampled.

Vapor intrusion refers to contaminated vapors that may seep into buildings through basements, crawl spaces and sub-slabs from underground soil or groundwater.

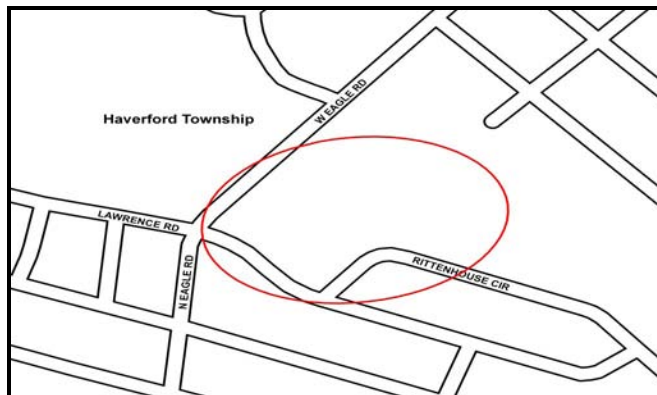
EPA performed this vapor intrusion assessment because TCE contamination exists in the groundwater system that is monitored, as part of the ongoing work at EPA's Havertown PCP Superfund Site.

When TCE is present in the groundwater it has the potential to **volatilize** or **off-gas** through the soil and into indoor air.



EPA offered vapor intrusion sampling to the residents of 14 homes in the vicinity outlined in the map above. Ten property owners participated. EPA selected this area for indoor air sampling because low levels of TCE have been detected in monitoring wells located in the shallow groundwater system in this residential area.

EPA reviews cleanup sites every five years to ensure the public is still protected. The agency will continue to assess for vapor intrusion as necessary.



General indoor air vapor intrusion study area

NEW MONITORING WELLS FIND LIMITED TCE

In addition to the vapor intrusion testing, EPA drilled and sampled nine new groundwater monitoring wells at the Eagle Road Business Park, near the corner of Eagle and Lawrence Roads to see if a TCE source existed upgradient from the Havertown PCP site, and to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion into commercial buildings.

TCE was found at low levels in one of the new groundwater monitoring wells southwest of the capped area of the Havertown PCP Superfund Site, within the Eagle Road Business park. As a result of not finding a separate source of TCE, it will be added to the list of contaminants being addressed at the Havertown PCP site.

While the vapor intrusion part of EPA's work is complete, the existing groundwater treatment system for the Havertown PCP Superfund Site continues to remove 99.9 percent of TCE in the treated groundwater, along with other chemical compounds. Therefore, no additional treatment is needed at this time.

The system reduces contaminants to levels that meet state standards for water discharged into streams. The system releases the treated water into Naylor's Run. EPA will continue to monitoring groundwater throughout the area.

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, 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

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For information on the vapor intrusion assessment: www.epaossc.org/TCE_Havertown. The Trip Reports for the VI Assessment can be found in the Documents Section.

For information on Havertown PCP Site cleanup: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD002338010.htm>

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Find out more about the final results of the vapor study in Havertown

