

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

NPL Site

September 2016

WEST VERMONT DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION | Indianapolis, Indiana | Marion County

Site Location:

The West Vermont Drinking Water Contamination site consists of a commingled ground water plume containing chlorinated solvents. The ground water plume is approximately 18 acres and is contaminating drinking water wells in a mixed residential/commercial neighborhood on the west side of Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.

Site History:

The Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) discovered the site in 2009. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) referred the site to the EPA Removal Program. The EPA installed temporary water treatment systems in three residences to help remove vinyl chloride in drinking water. Investigations by the EPA and IDEM have since concluded that two nearby facilities located northeast of the neighborhood are responsible for the contamination.

Site Contamination/Contaminants:

The plume consists of chlorinated solvents, specifically trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE) and vinyl chloride. The site poses a health risk for residents due to contamination above the Safe Drinking Water Act's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for vinyl chloride.

Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Concentrations of vinyl chloride were found above safe drinking water standards in three residential drinking wells. There are 40 homes in the neighborhood within a mile that rely on private water wells that could potentially be affected. The contaminated plume also has the potential to migrate four miles to where two separate municipal well fields are located that serve water to more than 18,000 people.

Response Activities (to date):

In August 2009, the MCPHD found vinyl chloride in residential wells above safe levels. That same year, IDEM formally requested assistance from the EPA Removal Program. The EPA installed temporary water treatment systems in the three residences to help remove vinyl chloride in drinking water. The EPA also conducted a hydrogeologic investigation to identify the source of contamination in the residential wells. MCPHD monitors drinking water wells for this neighborhood on a regular basis. In 2015 Removal connected residential properties to municipal water. EPA's Removal Program continues to assess vapor intrusion threats at these homes.

Need for NPL Listing:

The state of Indiana referred the site to the EPA because the ground water plume can potentially contaminate nearby drinking water wells and municipal well fields. Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated, but are not viable at this time because responsible parties have not adequately addressed the ground water contamination under state authority. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state of Indiana.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]