



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Not interested.

January 7, 2016

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

As part of on-going groundwater pollution monitoring for the Galen Myers Dump/Drum Salvage Superfund site (Galen Myers, or the "site"), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its contractors are collecting indoor air and subslab soil gas samples from nearby residential properties. The purpose of this testing is to determine whether volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater, from the Galen Myers site, turned into a gas/vapor (volatilized). The samples collected would show if the contaminants are present in the soil gas beneath residential homes and/or within indoor air near the site, and at what concentrations they are present. If site-related VOCs are present beneath houses or within indoor air, it is possible for those VOCs to pose a risk to human health. Your land at [Redacted] is on our list of properties to be tested.

Before we can begin, we will need your written permission for installation and sampling of three subslab soil gas probes and collection of indoor air samples. In addition to the sampling activities, a building survey and utility locating effort will be conducted within your home to select the best sample locations. This work is being done for your health and safety and would be at NO COST to you.

Background

From the 1970's until 1983, Mr. Galen Myers operated a drum recycling business on his property at 11303 Edison Drive, by taking drums filled with various solid and liquid chemical waste materials and emptying the contents into the ground. The chemicals, including trichloroethylene (TCE) and other chlorinated solvents (types of VOCs) entered the underground water. In 1986 and from 1991 through 1993 EPA sampled nearby residential wells and found VOCs in elevated concentrations, so by June 1996, EPA provided public drinking water connection to approximately 180 residences so residents would not drink polluted water.

In 1995, EPA issued and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) agreed on the remedy for the site in a Record of Decision (ROD). The selected remedies in the ROD were to remove contaminated soil from the Galen Myers property, finish connecting residents to public water, installing a network of groundwater monitoring wells to sample every year to make sure we know where the contaminated water is going and to see the pollutants naturally degrade over time, and institutional controls in the form of the St. Joseph County Health Department (SJCHD) Drinking Water Ordinance to limit use of groundwater. Every year, IDEM continues to collect groundwater samples and SJCHD makes sure that no one installs new wells within their control area without permission.

In 2015, deep soil gas samples were collected in the vicinity of the Galen Myers site. Based on the results of the deep soil gas samples, EPA has determined that a potential for vapor intrusion exists. Vapor intrusion occurs

when pollutants in groundwater turn into a gas that can enter a home through a crawlspace, basement or foundation slab. If gases containing pollutants are entering a home, the gas can be breathed in by the occupants and potentially cause health issues. For more information on vapor intrusion, please visit: www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/basic.html.

For more information on the Galen Myers site, please visit our website at: www3.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/galenmyers

Purpose

This letter requests your permission for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized representatives to access your property at [REDACTED] in order to perform the following three activities:

1. Complete a building survey of the property,
2. Install and sample three subslab soil gas probes, and
3. Collect two indoor air samples.

In this envelope is an access agreement. You may consent to EPA accessing your property to conduct the activities described above by signing the attached Consent for Access form and mailing it back to EPA in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. EPA requests that you sign and return the Consent for Access form by **January 11, 2016**. Installation of subslab soil gas probes and sample collection is anticipated to occur in March 2016.

Sampling process

Once you have given consent, we will contact you before starting the activities described above. If you have any tenants on your property, you must notify them as soon as possible after giving your consent and after receiving notice from us about when on-site activities will take place.

The building survey will include documenting building characteristics and conditions. During the survey a handheld Photoionization Detector (PID) will be used to identify areas of the home where chemical products which may contain VOCs are stored. Such products may be temporarily removed, if feasible, as the presence of these items can interfere with the sampling results. Occupants will be requested to refrain from using VOC-containing items for at least 24 hours prior to collecting samples and during the 24-hour period samples when samples are collected.

At the time of the building survey before installing the sampling probes, we will conduct a utility clearance inside your home to identify underground utilities, wire mesh and/or rebar at the proposed subslab soil gas sample locations. The subslab soil gas probes will be installed using a hand held drill. Installation of the subslab soil gas probes and sample collection is anticipated to occur in March 2016. A 1-inch hole (about the size of a quarter-dollar coin) will be drilled through the floor in the lowest level of your home through the cement slab. A small probe will be installed to collect the subslab soil gas samples. A small stainless steel cover will be placed over each probe after installation. The metal cover will be 1.5 inches in diameter (about the size of a half-dollar coin) and flush with the floor. We will work with you to make sure the probes are installed at locations that works best for you.

After installation, the subslab soil gas probes must rest for a minimum of 72 hours before we can return to your home to collect samples. During the sampling effort, sampling canisters (the size and shape of a basketball) will be placed in your home for a period of 24 hours. The canisters require no power and make no noise. Indoor air and subslab soil gas samples will be collected at the same time. The sampling team will need access to your

home twice during sampling, once to set up and start the sample collection and once to stop the sample collection and remove the canisters.

You will be notified of your sample results approximately four months after the sampling, expected by July 2016.

Instructions on granting access

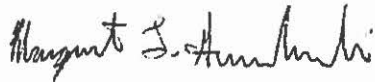
The EPA may not do this sampling work without your written permission so filling out the access agreement is important.

Please review and sign the form indicating if you agree or do not agree to give us access and have the work done. ~~Your response is completely voluntary.~~ PLEASE MAIL, EMAIL, OR FAX THE ACCESS AGREEMENT BACK TO EPA by **January 11, 2016** TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2016 SAMPLING EVENT. If you choose regular mail, return the form in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you choose email, please email your access agreement to gielniewski.margaret@epa.gov. If you choose to fax your access agreement, please fax to 312-692-2928.

Also, if you know of any **buried utility lines or pipes** that you or a former property owner installed beneath your home, please indicate this on the access agreement. This will help EPA and its contractors avoid damaging the utility and keep the investigation team safe.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, you may contact me toll-free during weekdays at 800-621-8431, extension 6-6244 or at 312-886-6244. You can also contact Heriberto Leon, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 800-621-8431 extension 6-6163.

Sincerely,



Margaret Gielniewski
Project Manager

p.s. If you misplace the enclosed, pre-paid envelope, please send your access agreement to the following address. You may also email or fax your access agreement.

EPA
Attn: Margaret Gielniewski
77 West Jackson Blvd (SR-6J)
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Email: gielniewski.margaret@epa.gov
Fax: 312-692-2928