

Lippert, Jeffrey

From: Mankowski, Matthew
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 6:29 PM
To: Groetsch, Kory J. (DHHS); Lippert, Jeffrey
Cc: Gray, Jennifer (DHHS); MontgomeryD1@michigan.gov; Quiggle, Lisa (DHHS); LyonCallo, Sarah (DHHS); Dykema, Linda D. (DHHS); El-Zein, Jason
Subject: RE: Former Trex site - 312 Ellsworth Ave SW, Grand Rapids

Kory:

Thanks for the referral. I am assigning Jeff Lippert as the OSC for this site and am forwarding this info to him. Jeff can be reached at 734-308-1695 and his e-mail is lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov.

Matt Mankowski
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Emergency Response Branch #1
Chief Emergency Response Section #2
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From: Groetsch, Kory J. (DHHS) [mailto:GroetschK@michigan.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 5:09 PM
To: Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>
Cc: Gray, Jennifer (DHHS) <GrayJ@michigan.gov>; MontgomeryD1@michigan.gov; Quiggle, Lisa (DHHS) <QuiggleL@michigan.gov>; LyonCallo, Sarah (DHHS) <lyoncallos@michigan.gov>; Dykema, Linda D. (DHHS) <DykemaL@michigan.gov>; Groetsch, Kory J. (DHHS) <GroetschK@michigan.gov>
Subject: Former Trex site - 312 Ellsworth Ave SW, Grand Rapids

Matt,

MDHHS is requesting the EPA's assistance in addressing an immediate public health concerns in the area surrounding and including 312 Ellsworth Ave SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I am assigning Lisa Quiggle is lead MDHHS toxicologist to this site, with supporting toxicology assistance as needed from Jennifer Gray. Your OSC may contact either one, as needed.

I have consulted with MDEQ Waste and Hazardous Materials Chief and we are in agreement that this request of the US EPA Removal Program is a necessary referral for addressing these public health concerns. MDEQ does request that as the work proceeds there be coordination with MDEQ Delores Montgomery (cc'd) so that existing work plans and agreements that DEQ has with the responsible party can be shared with the US EPA and the US EPA can share their planned actions.

Attached are documents provided today by MDEQ regarding the Former Trex Site. The DEQ has obtained Sub Slab sampling results that have extremely high levels of trichloroethylene that could result in indoor air levels that would be an immediate public health hazard. We believe the initial need is measuring concentrations of the chemicals of concern in the indoor air in adjacent buildings 312 Ellsworth Ave SW. These buildings include, but are not limited to, the Grand Rapids Ballet and Symphony, the Founders Brewing Company and possibly the Central Bus Station.

Below is the meeting from our meeting today about former Trex Facility.

The former Trex facility is a RCRA site managed by the MDEQ Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection

Meeting attendees:

John McCabe, MDEQ project manager
Abbie Hendershott, MDEQ technical support for vapor intrusion
Kristen Kellock, MDEQ toxicologist
Joe Victory, MDEQ geologist
De Montgomery, MDEQ Hazardous Waste Section Chief
Eric Pessell, Kent County Health Department
Kory Groetsch, MDHHS TARS manager
Lisa Quiggle, MDHHS toxicologist
Jennifer Gray, MDHHS toxicologist

Background and location:

The Trex facility functions as a solvent reclaimer from 1967 to 1996. Four railroad spurs were adjacent to the building. Trex is currently under a voluntary corrective agreement with the MDEQ to characterize the contamination on the site.

The Former Trex facility (also operated under Dtrex) currently has a commercial photography studio (Big Event Studios). Employees store props in the basement and it's reported that they only go down there for 15 minutes at a time. The basement floor is concrete and may have been sealed in the past, but there is a crawl space area with dirt and a freight elevator connecting the floors.

There is known soil and groundwater trichloroethylene (TCE) on-site and free product (dense aqueous phase liquid [DNAPL]) is possible under the building. Based on the data Trex has provided to the MDEQ, the exact groundwater direction is not known, but is expected to be headed west toward the river. Groundwater direction may be complicated by a former excavation under the building.

- Partial underground parking area near the building
- A 84 inch storm sewer is adjacent to the building (no investigation if groundwater or any DNAPL is infiltrating)
- The next grouping of building around to the former Trex building are lofts, Founders Brewery (including the restaurant), the Peter Martin Wege Theater (home of the Grand Rapids Ballet and Grand Rapids Symphony, also has rental auditorium and children's dance/ballet classes, ages 3+)

Current data – soil gas:

In addition to the soil and groundwater contamination, elevated sub-slab soil gas levels (ranging from 237 to 8,240,000 microgram per cubic meter [$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$]) of TCE were identified by the responsible party and sent to the MDEQ at the end of March 2016. The MDEQ sent a letter requesting indoor air samples in that building and in two adjacent buildings (Grand Rapids Rapid Transit station [location of one former railroad spur] and Mid-Michigan Trucking) at the beginning of April 2016. No indoor air data has been collected as of yet, but based on the U.S. EPA vapor intrusion screening level calculator, calculated indoor air levels are $247,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (>10,000 times higher than the urgent response TCE levels of 6 [residential] or 21 [occupational] $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

Air sampling – this week (June 8-9, 2016):

Air samples (12 or 24 hour Summa canisters) are scheduled for this week Wed and Thurs (June 8-9, 2016) with a requested 24 hour turnaround time. The Grand Rapids Rapid Transit station has a basement (MDEQ is not sure if offices are down there yet, MDEQ Lansing staff are scoping it out this Thursday), but the main level is an open awning area. The Mid-Michigan Trucking is expected to have a basement of some type, but the exact configuration of the building is not know at this time.

- Air samples (24 hour Summa canisters) will be collected from the Grand Rapids Transit station and the former Trex facility
- Air samples (12 hour Summa canisters) may be collected from Mid-Michigan Trucking, but the company does not want their building evacuated during their busy season, and may deny access

Action items:

- Joe Victory, MDEQ geologist is providing the Kent County Health Department a map for a private residential well search (nothing in Wellogic) and to be able to identify other locations that may need priority air sampling
- MDEQ Lansing staff are scoping out the site and the surrounding area Thursday (June 9) and may enter the building (it's unclear if the MultiRAE MDEQ staff used when entering the building previously had parts per million or parts per billion total VOC detection limits) – requested U.S. EPA support to safely set up Summa canisters this week
- Eric Pessell, Kent County HD, requested talking points on TCE and will be contacting the City of Grand Rapids mayor and emergency management
- The U.S. EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus, which measures chemical levels in the air in real-time, will be in the area for another Grand Rapids site (Hall Street tetrachloroethylene plume) the week of June 20, 2016, and a request to screen buildings surrounding the former Trex facility will be made based on air sampling collected before June 20.

END NOTES FROM MEETING

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concern or questions regarding this request. I will be on travel status tomorrow, and Jennifer Gray will be acting as Section Manager in my absence through Friday June 10th.

Sincerely,

Kory Groetsch, MS , Manager

Toxicology and Response Section

Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

201 Townsend St.

Lansing, MI 48913

517-335-9935 (See BELOW for new number and date of use)

groetschk@michigan.gov

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Effective June 13, 2016, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Environmental Health is moving. My new contact information will be:

PHONE: 517-284-4804

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

333 S. Grand Ave.

Lansing, Michigan 48909

MAILING ADDRESS:

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Environmental Health

333 S. Grand Ave.

P.O. Box 30195

Lansing, Michigan 48909

