From: Schultz, Josie M - DNR
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 9:29 AM
To: 'Lee Amundson'
Subject: 1404 S. Webster - Letter sent to neighbors
Attachments: 1_20200507_99_Demographics_Survey.pdf; 7_20200507_99_Demographics_Survey.pdf; 6_20200507_99_Demographics_Survey.pdf

Good morning Lee,

Attached to this email is one of the letters sent to multiple homes/businesses that we asked for a vapor investigation to be performed at, along with a couple of fact sheets. The addresses these letters were sent to were:
1404 S. Webster
1410 S. Webster
1320 S. Webster
926 Derby
930 Derby

I'm asking that the residents call me at my cellphone to discuss demographics in their homes, and basing the priority to perform vapor sampling off of the presence of a vulnerable population. As mentioned during our phone call a couple days ago, we may be doing a small state lead project for this vapor sampling with the intent to recover costs from you.

As I hear back from the neighbors, I will keep you updated on how we intend to move forward. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Josie

We are committed to service excellence.
Visit our survey at http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey to evaluate how I did.

Josie M. Schultz
Hydrogeologist – Northeast Region Remediation and Redevelopment Team
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727
Phone: 920-662-5424
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State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay WI 54313-6727

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

May 7, 2020

Current Resident
1410 S. Webster Ave
Green Bay, WI 54301

Dear Neighbor,

This letter is to inform you of the on-going investigation and cleanup of chlorinated volatile organic compounds discovered in the groundwater relating to the former dry cleaning building located at 1404 S. Webster Avenue. Among other compounds, a solvent called trichloroethylene, or TCE, has been detected in groundwater around the former drycleaner.

Scientists have recognized that vapors from TCE can be released from soil and/or groundwater, move through soils and accumulate under buildings. Under certain conditions, these vapors can also move up through foundation floors and walls and enter the indoor air. This is called vapor intrusion and is very similar to the way in which radon gas – a naturally occurring element – enters some homes. Research conducted in the last several years tells us that the vapor intrusion pathway must be investigated beyond the boundaries of the property where the source is located.

As the attached Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) fact sheet indicates, TCE can pose a particular concern for women during pregnancy, even with a short-term exposure. We would like to determine whether women who are pregnant or fall within an age range of 15 to 44 reside or work at your address. We will only use this information to determine whether collecting samples of indoor air within your building should be a priority.

Given the current concerns regarding COVID-19, we would also like to determine whether anyone over the age of 60 or who DHS would consider medically vulnerable (e.g. compromised immune system, diabetes, etc.) resides or works at this address. This information would only be used to determine whether the party responsible for investigating the contamination or the DNR should take extra precautions if you allow sampling within your building.

Please call me at your earliest convenience at 920-366-5685 so that we can discuss the on-going investigation and possible risks to occupants at this address. I can also be contacted by email at josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov. If you have any questions regarding the health concerns associated with TCE, please contact Clara Jeong with DHS at 608-267-2949 or clara.jeong@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

Josie Schultz
Hydrogeologist
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

Encl. Fact Sheets: What is Vapor Intrusion (DNR PUB RR892)
TCE in the Air (DHS PUB P-02480)

PUB-RR-892
Feb 2014

Wisconsin DNR vapor intrusion quick facts

What is Vapor Intrusion?

Chemicals used in commercial or industrial activities – dry cleaning chemicals, chemical degreasers and petroleum products such as gasoline – are sometimes spilled and leak into nearby soil or groundwater. When this happens, these chemicals may release gases or vapors, which travel from the contaminated groundwater or soil and move into nearby homes or businesses. This is called vapor intrusion.

The process when chemical vapors from contaminated soil or groundwater enter a home or other structure is called vapor intrusion.

Why are these chemical vapors a problem?

The chemicals that cause vapor intrusion are known as volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. Even when spilled into soil or water, these chemicals easily evaporate. They don't cause human health problems when they evaporate into the outside air, but when their vapors move into homes or businesses, they may cause long-term health problems for the people who live or work in those buildings. These vapors are usually odorless and colorless and undetectable without special testing equipment.

Why is vapor intrusion a concern?

Exposure to some chemical gases or vapors can cause an increased risk of adverse health effects. Whether or not a person experiences any health effects depends on several factors, including the amount and length of exposure, the toxicity of the chemical, and the individual's sensitivity to the chemical. When harmful chemical vapor intrusion is the result of environmental contamination, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires that steps be taken to reduce or eliminate exposures which could be harmful to human health.

What should I expect if vapor intrusion is suspected near my home or business?

For businesses or other locations where VOC contamination has been found, the DNR requires that the potential for vapor intrusion be investigated. If you live near a site being cleaned up, you may be contacted by the site owner or others working on the cleanup. Your cooperation and consent will be requested before any testing or sampling is conducted on your property. Ask the person contacting you any questions you have about the work being done, or contact the DNR for more information (see DNR contact information on reverse). For more information about testing for vapor intrusion, see DNR-Pub-RR-954, "What to Expect During Vapor Intrusion Sampling."

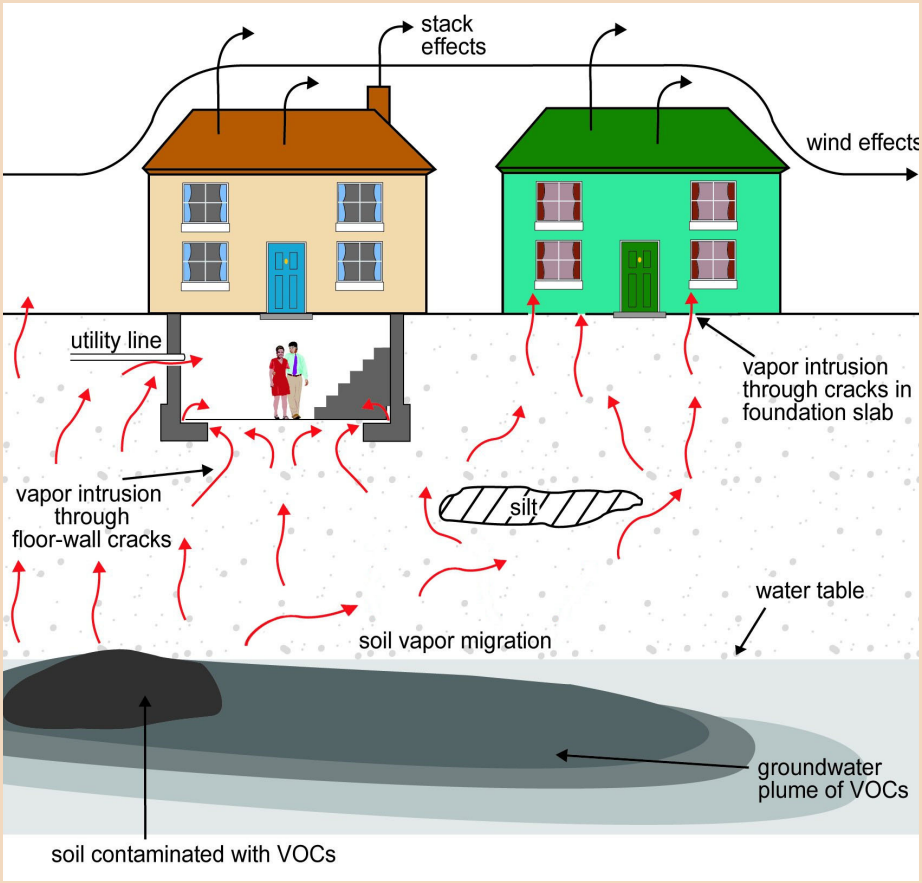
WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
dnr.wi.gov, search "Brownfields"

Environment Remediation and Redevelopment Program Redevelopment Partnership Cleanup

How Vapors Enter a Building

If you live near a commercial or industrial facility or landfill where VOCs have entered either the soil or groundwater, there may be a potential for those chemicals to travel as vapors into your home or business. Vapors can enter buildings in various ways, including through cracks in the foundation and openings for utility lines. Building ventilation and weather can influence the extent of vapor intrusion.



Adapted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) graphic.
www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/basic.html

Where can I find more information?

Health and vapor-related information can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website at **dhs.wisconsin.gov** , search "Vapor." For other health-related questions, please contact your local health department: **www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth**.

For more DNR information, please visit the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program's Vapor Intrusion page at **dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Vapor.html**.

Additional information can be obtained through the DNR field office in your region. To find the correct office, visit the RR Program Staff Contacts page at **dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Contact.html** or call the RR Program at (608) 266-2111.

TCE in the Air

Trichloroethylene (TCE) health effects and actions you can take to protect your home's air

TCE is a man-made chemical used at dry cleaners, in some factories to clean metal, and in some household items like paint, spot removers, and varnishes. If spilled, it can stay in the ground for a long time.

Why should I care?

- It can enter your home through cracks in the floor or walls of your basement, and other openings.
- It evaporates quickly and breathing the vapors is not healthy.
- It can cause cancer if you breathe it over a long period of time.

Who has more risk?

Babies whose mother's breathe in TCE while pregnant can have:

- Lower birth weights
- Heart defects
- Nervous or immune system problems

What if TCE is in my community?

If there is a known concern, environmental professionals will ask to check your home to make sure there is no TCE inside.

They need your permission to test the air in and below your basement.

If they find high levels of TCE, they will suggest that you have a special system installed to fix the problem.

Do I have to pay?

The people responsible for the contamination will probably have to pay for the testing and any system that has to be installed.

A "sub-slab mitigation" system moves air from below to outside the house.

What else can I do?

- Wear protective gloves if you use products with TCE (like paint remover).
- Use only small amounts of products containing TCE.
- Use the chemical in well-ventilated areas.
- Do not stay in the room for long periods of time if you can smell the chemical while using it or after using it.

Where can I learn more?

- **TCE chemical basics**: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/trichloroethylene.htm
- **Vapor intrusion health concerns**: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/air/vi.htm
- **Vapor intrusion 101 video**: www.youtube.com/watch?v=izo0QKqCToU

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
P-02480 (08/2019)