State of Wisconsin DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Waukesha Service Center (4% NW Barstow St., Room 180 Waukesha WI 53188

Scott Walker, Governor Cathy Stepp, Secretary Telephone 608-266-2621 Toll Free 1-888-936-7463 TTY Access via relay - 711



March 5, 2014

Dennis Leonard 3618 North 11<sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53206 FID # 341148720 BRRTS # 02-41-549867

Vapor Assessment Results 3618 North 11<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, WI

Dear Mr. Leonard,

Subject:

Thank you for your recent participation in our ongoing efforts to address the impacts of trichloroethylene, or "TCE," which was discovered in the groundwater in your neighborhood. This letter is to update you on the results of testing performed at your home to evaluate the potential presence of TCE vapor.

TCE vapors can be released from groundwater, move up through soils and accumulate under buildings. If these vapors reach a certain concentration, they can also move up through basement floors and enter indoor air in a way very similar to radon gas.

The results of sub-slab testing from the basement showed vapor levels above the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) action level. The test result showed levels of 150 parts per billion by volume (ppbv) in the basement near the furnace. Since this test is above the DNR's action level of 3.9 ppbv, the DNR recommends that your home have a mitigation system installed. I have included a copy of the consultant's report which documents the sampling and results.

The DNR uses very conservative action levels designed to protect all residents. This includes children, the elderly and pregnant women, who are typically most sensitive to the effects of toxic chemicals. Although the level of TCE found in your indoor air was below the level at which we would expect any health effects to occur, the levels inside one's home can vary quite a bit over time. Thus, due to the levels of TCE that were detected beneath your home, we recommend installation of a mitigation system until the contamination is removed, to prevent exposure to unsafe levels of TCE in the future. Please contact Lindor Schmidt, City of Milwaukee Health Department, or Ryan Wozniak, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, if you have health-related questions or concerns about the TCE level found in your home.

DNR has agreed to pay for the installation of an appropriate DNR-recommended mitigation system at no cost to you. The system, similar to what is commonly used to mitigate naturally-occurring radon gas, vents the soil around your home to prevent accumulation of TCE vapors and halt such vapors from entering your home. DNR is currently working out funding issues and will be in touch with you to discuss next steps and schedule system installation.

It is also important to note that levels of TCE in the groundwater and resulting vapors are expected to continue decreasing over time through natural effects.



The DNR and DHS remain committed to the elimination of impacts to residents of the TCE-impacted groundwater in the area. We will continue to work together with homeowners to monitor and assess the effectiveness of our mitigation efforts. Please feel free to reach out to any of the contacts listed below at any time should you have a question now or in the future. We are happy to share information.

Thank you again for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Mark Drews, Hydrogeologist Remediation and Redevelopment Program Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Enclosures: "Vapor Assessment Sampling Results for Clare Central Project", by SCS Engineers Chemical Fact Sheet Trichloroethylene "TCE", by Wis. Department of Health Services

Contacts:

### **Health Questions**

Lindor Schmidt Milw. Health Dept. (414) 286-2359

**Health Questions** 

Ryan Wozniak Dept. of Health Services (608) 267-3227

#### **DNR Questions**

Terry Evanson – Statewide Vapor Expert Dept. of Natural Resources (608) 266-0941

Mark Drews – Project Manager Dept. of Natural Resources (262) 574-2146

#### 2830 Dairy Drive Madison, WI 53718-6751

608 224-2830 FAX 608 224-2839 www.scsengineers.com

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### SCS ENGINEERS

February 21, 2014 File No. 25213180.04

Ms. Margaret Brunette Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Milwaukee, WI 53212

Subject: Vapor Assessment Sampling Results for Clare Central Project 3618 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin BRRTS #02-41-549867 WDNR Purchase Order #NMD00000584

Dear Ms. Brunette:

SCS Engineers (SCS) is providing the following report summarizing vapor assessment sampling for the home at 3618 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Our work was performed under the Vapor Intrusion Zone Contract (VIZC) and above-noted purchase order.

### METHODS

Vapor assessment sampling was performed consistent with the VIZC specifications. Ambient air and sub-slab samples were collected by SCS on February 5-6, 2014. Sample canisters and controllers were supplied by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH).

Ambient air samples were collected using 6-liter Summa canisters and 24-hour flow controllers. The sub-slab sample was collected using a 6-liter Summa canister and 30-minute flow controller. Sub-slab water dam and shut-in leak testing was performed prior to sampling. The sub-slab probe was installed flush with the basement floor and left in place. Sample locations are shown on Figures 1 and 2.

All samples were transported to WSLH for analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Samples were analyzed for tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), cis-1,2dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE), trans-1,2-dichloroethene (trans-1,2-DCE), and vinyl chloride per method TO-15. Analytical results are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Laboratory analytical reports and field forms are included in Attachment A. Sample location photos are included in Attachment B.

### FINDINGS

TCE was detected in the indoor air sample collected from the basement, but the concentration does not exceed the residential indoor air Vapor Action Level. No other VOCs were detected in the indoor air or outdoor air (background) samples.

Ms. Brunette February 21, 2014 Page 2

TCE and cis-1,2-DCE were detected in the basement sub-slab sample. The TCE concentration exceeds the residential Vapor Risk Screening Level (VRSL). There is not a VRSL for cis-1,2-DCE. No other VOCs were detected in the sub-slab sample.

Please feel free to contact me at 608-216-7329 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Hobert E Jong !-

Robert Langdon Senior Project Manager SCS ENGINEERS

REL/lmh/TK

Enclosures: Table 1 – Ambient Air Analytical Results Summary – Residential Table 2 – Sub-Slab Vapor Analytical Results Summary – Residential Figure 1 – Site Plan Figure 2 – Basement Layout and Sample Locations Attachment A – Laboratory Analytical Reports and Field Forms Attachment B – Sample Location Photos

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### TABLES

Ambient Air Analytical Results Summary – Residential 1 2

Sub-Slab Vapor Analytical Results Summary – Residential

# Table 1. Ambient Air Analytical Results Summary - ResidentialClare Central, Milwaukee, Wisconsin / SCS Engineers Project #25213180.04

(Results are in ppbv)

Sample	Location	Date	Lab Notes	PCE	TCE	cis-1,2- DCE	trans-1,2- DCE	Vinyl Chloride
3618 Basement	3618 N. 11th Street	2/6/2014		<0.085	0.33 *	<0.085	<0.085	<0.085
3618 Outside	3618 N. 11th Street	2/6/2014		<0.085	<0.085	<0.085	<0.085	<0.085
Indoor Air Vapor Actic	on Level (Residential)			6.2	0.39	NE	16	0.62

Abbreviations:

ppbv = parts per billion by volume cis-1,2-DCE = cis-1,2-dichloroethene PCE = tetrachloroethene trans-1,2-DCE = trans-1,2-dichloroethene TCE = trichloroetheneNE = not established

Notes:

1. Samples were collected in 6-liter summa canisters over a 24-hour period and analyzed using the USEPA TO-15 analytical method.

2. Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels are Target Indoor Air Concentrations from the USEPA November 2013 Regional Screening Level Summary Table with a target risk of 1.00E-05 for carcinogens.

3. Bold+underlined values meet or exceed Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels for Residential settings.

#### Lab Notes:

\* QC limit for precision exceeded

	Created by: JSN	Date: 2/19/2014
	Last revision by: JSN	Date: 2/19/2014
I:\25213180\25213180.04\Tables\[Clare Central_Off-Site_Ambient_Air_Results_Residential.xls]Ambient Air Results	Checked by: REL	Date: 2/19/2014

### Table 2. Sub-Slab Vapor Analytical Results Summary - Residential Clare Central, Milwaukee, Wisconsin / SCS Engineers Project #25213180.04

(Results are in ppbv)

Sample	Location	Date	Lab Notes	PCE	TCE	cis-1,2- DCE	trans-1,2- DCE	Vinyl Chloridə
3618 Sub-Slab	3618 N. 11th Street	2/6/2014		<4.3	<u>150</u> *	21	<4.3	<4.3
Vapor Risk Scree	ening Level (Residential)			62	3.9	NE	160	6.2

#### Abbreviations:

ppbv = parts per billion by volume cis-1,2-DCE = cis-1,2-dichloroethene -- = not applicable PCE = tetrachloroethene trans-1,2-DCE = trans-1,2-dichloroethene TCE = trichloroetheneNE = not established

#### Notes:

1. Samples were collected in 6-liter summa canisters over a 30-minute period and analyzed using the USEPA TO-15 analytical method.

2. Vapor Risk Screening Levels are Target Indoor Air Concentrations from the USEPA November 2013 Regional Screening Level Summary Table divided by Attenuation Factor of 0.1 for residential settings.

3. Target Indoor Air Concentrations assume a target risk of 1.00E-05 for carcinogens.

4. Bold+underlined values meet or exceed Vapor Risk Screening Levels for Residential settings.

#### Lab Notes:

\* QC limit for precision exceeded

Created by: JSN	Date
Last revision by: JSN	Date
Checked by: REL	Dat

Date:	2/19/2014
Date:	2/19/2014
Date:	2/19/2014

l:\25213180\25213180.04\Tables\[Clare Central\_Off-Site\_Sub-Slab\_Results\_Residential (2).xls]Sub-Slab Results

Table 2, Page 1 of 1

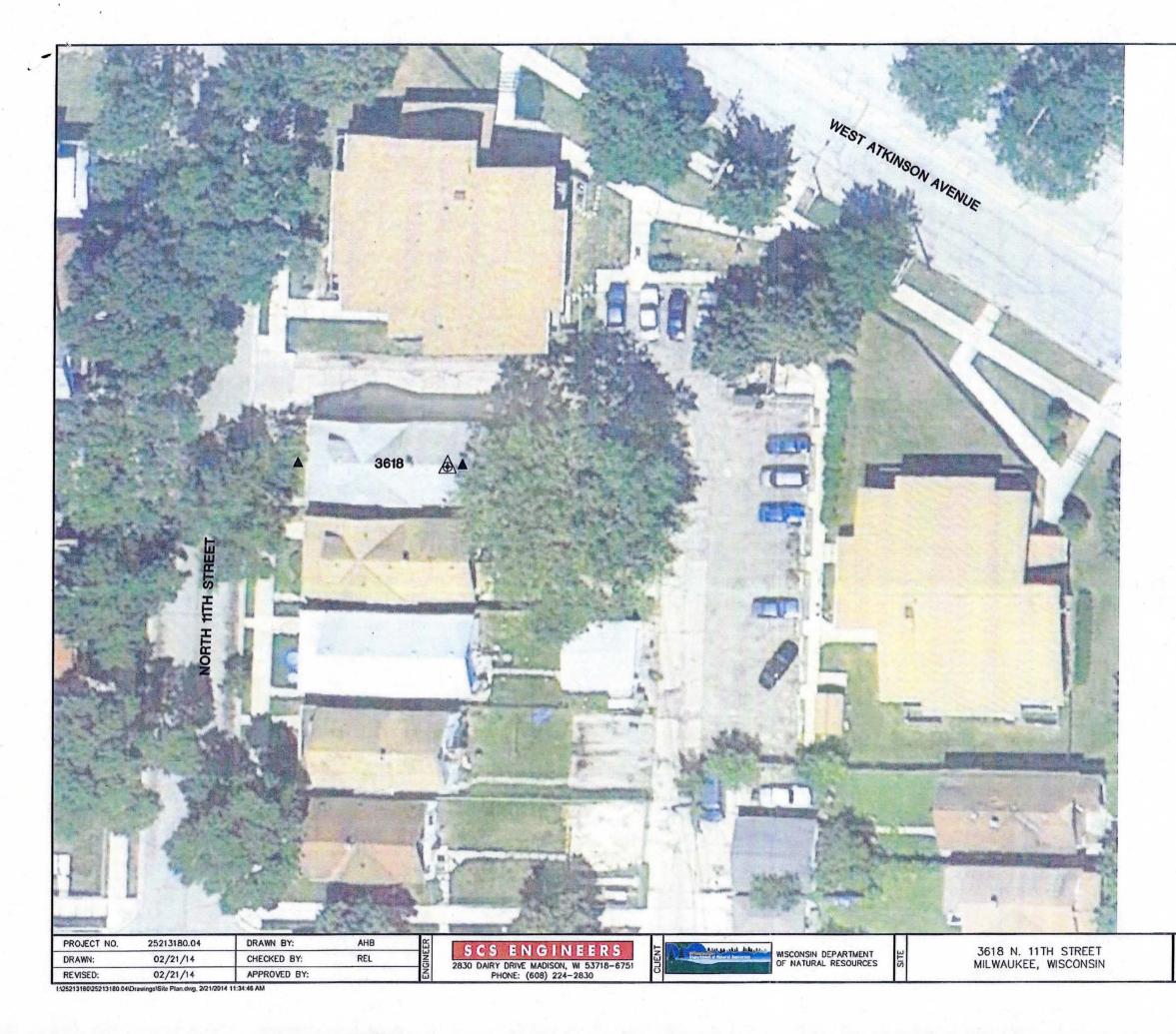
# FIGURES

Site Plan

Basement Layout and Sample Locations

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1



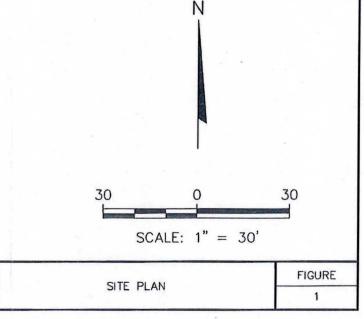
#### LEGEND

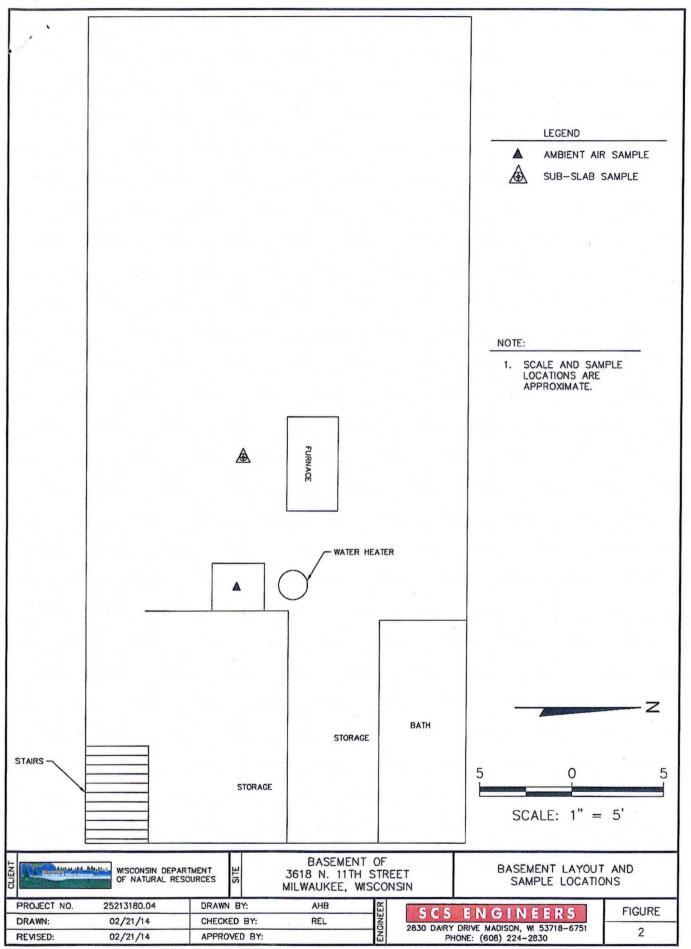


AMBIENT AIR SAMPLE SUB-SLAB SAMPLE

NOTE:

1. SCALE AND SAMPLE LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.





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# ATTACHMENT A

Laboratory Analytical Reports and Field Forms



# Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

Environmental Health Division WDNR LAB ID: 113133790 NELA

NELAP LAB ID: E37658

EPA LAB ID: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832001

Report To: R LANGDON - SCS SCS ENGINEERS 2830 DAIRY DRIVE MADISON, WI 53718 Invoice To: RON ARNESON WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Customer ID: RR043

Field #: 3618 BASEMENT Project No: CLARE CENTRAL Collection End: 2/6/2014 2:06:00 PM Collection Start: Collected By: STEVE SMITH Date Received: 2/7/2014 Date Reported: 2/18/2014 Sample Reason:

ID#: Sample Location: Sample Description: Sample Type: AI-INDOOR AIR Waterbody: Point or Outfall: Sample Depth: Program Code: Region Code: County:

#### **Sample Comments**

**RE-REPORTED TO FIX FIELD ID ON 002** 

#### **OC-Volatiles**

Analyte	Analysis Method	Result	Units	LOD	LOQ
Prep Date 02/11/14 Analysis Date	02/11/14				
Vinyl chloride	EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28
Trichloroethene	EPA TO-15	0.33	ppbv	0.085	0.28
QC limit for precision exceeded.					
Tetrachloroethene	EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28



### Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

**Environmental Health Division** 

WDNR LAB ID: 113133790

NELAP LAB ID: E37658 EPA LAB ID:

D: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832001

The water microbiology unit analyzes samples as received and not all samples are tested for preservation before analysis is performed.

List of Abbreviations: LOD = Level of detection LOQ = Level of quantification ND = None detected. Results are less than the LOD F next to result = Result is between LOD and LOQ Z next to result = Result is between 0 (zero) and LOD if LOD=LOQ, Limits were not statistically derived

\*Test results for NELAP accredited tests are certified to meet the requirements of the NELAC standards. For a list of accredited analytes see http://www.slh.edu/nelap/

#### **Previous Reports**

This sample was previously reported under the following report ID(s): 1226501,1226960

#### **Responsible Party**

Microbiology: Sharon Kluender, Lab Manager, 608-224-6262 Inorganic Chemistry: Tracy Hanke, Lab Manager, 608-224-6270 Metals: DeWayne Kennedy-Parker, Lab Manager, 608-224-6282 Organic Chemistry: Steve Geis, Lab Manager, 608-224-6269 Emergency Chemical Response: Noel Stanton, Lab Manager, 608-224-6251



# Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

Environmental Health Division WDNR LAB ID: 113133790 NE

NELAP LAB ID: E37658

EPA LAB ID: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832002

Report To: R LANGDON - SCS SCS ENGINEERS 2830 DAIRY DRIVE MADISON, WI 53718 Invoice To: RON ARNESON WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Customer ID: RR043

Field #:3618 OUTSIDEProject No:CLARE CENTRALCollection End:2/6/2014 1:40:00 PMCollection Start:Collected By:Collected By:STEVE SMITHDate Received:2/7/2014Date Reported:2/18/2014Sample Reason:Sample Reason:

ID#: Sample Location: Sample Description: Sample Type: AR-AIR Waterbody: Point or Outfall: Sample Depth: Program Code: Region Code: County:

#### **Sample Comments**

**RE-REPORTED TO FIX FIELD ID ON 002** 

#### **OC-Volatiles**

Analyte			Analysis Method	Result	Units	LOD	LOQ	
Prep Date	02/11/14	Analysis Date	02/11/14					
Vinyl chlor	ride		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	
trans-1,2-l	Dichloroethene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	
cis-1,2-Dic	chloroethene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	
Trichloroel	thene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	
QCI	imit for precision exc	ceeded.						
Tetrachlor	oethene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	
		eeded.	EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	0.085	0.28	



### Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

**Environmental Health Division** 

WDNR LAB ID: 113133790

NELAP LAB ID: E37658 E

EPA LAB ID: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832002

The water microbiology unit analyzes samples as received and not all samples are tested for preservation before analysis is performed.

List of Abbreviations: LOD = Level of detection LOQ = Level of quantification ND = None detected. Results are less than the LOD F next to result = Result is between LOD and LOQ Z next to result = Result is between 0 (zero) and LOD if LOD=LOQ, Limits were not statistically derived

\*Test results for NELAP accredited tests are certified to meet the requirements of the NELAC standards. For a list of accredited analytes see http://www.slh.edu/nelap/

#### **Previous Reports**

This sample was previously reported under the following report ID(s): 1226502,1226961

#### **Responsible Party**

Microbiology: Sharon Kluender, Lab Manager, 608-224-6262 Inorganic Chemistry: Tracy Hanke, Lab Manager, 608-224-6270 Metals: DeWayne Kennedy-Parker, Lab Manager, 608-224-6282 Organic Chemistry: Steve Geis, Lab Manager, 608-224-6269 Emergency Chemical Response: Noel Stanton, Lab Manager, 608-224-6251



# Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

Environmental Health Division WDNR LAB ID: 113133790 NE

NELAP LAB ID: E37658

EPA LAB ID: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832003

Report To: R LANGDON - SCS SCS ENGINEERS 2830 DAIRY DRIVE MADISON, WI 53718 Invoice To: RON ARNESON WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Customer ID: RR043

Field #:3618 SUB-SLAB BASEMENTProject No:CLARE CENTRALCollection End:2/6/2014 3:05:00 PMCollection Start:Collected By:STEVE SMITHDate Received:Date Reported:2/7/2014Date Reported:2/18/2014Sample Reason:

ID#: Sample Location: Sample Description: Sample Type: AI-INDOOR AIR Waterbody: Point or Outfall: Sample Depth: Program Code: Region Code: County:

#### Sample Comments

SUB-SLAB SAMPLE FROM BASEMENT

**RE-REPORTED TO FIX FIELD ID ON 002** 

#### **OC-Volatiles**

Analyte		Analysis Method	Result	Units	LOD	LOQ
Prep Date 02/11/14 And	alysis Date	02/11/14				
Vinyl chloride		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	4.3	14
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	4.3	14
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene		EPA TO-15	21	ppbv	4.3	14
Trichloroethene		EPA TO-15	150	ppbv	4.3	14
QC limit for precision exceeded.						
Tetrachloroethene		EPA TO-15	ND	ppbv	4.3	14



### Laboratory Report

D.F. Kurtycz, M.D., Medical Director - Charles D. Brokopp, Dr.P.H., Director

**Environmental Health Division** 

WDNR LAB ID: 113133790

NELAP LAB ID: E37658

EPA LAB ID: WI00007

WI DATCP ID: 105-415

WSLH Sample: 118832003

The water microbiology unit analyzes samples as received and not all samples are tested for preservation before analysis is performed.

List of Abbreviations: LOD = Level of detection LOQ = Level of quantification ND = None detected. Results are less than the LOD F next to result = Result is between LOD and LOQ Z next to result = Result is between 0 (zero) and LOD if LOD=LOQ, Limits were not statistically derived

\*Test results for NELAP accredited tests are certified to meet the requirements of the NELAC standards. For a list of accredited analytes see http://www.slh.edu/nelap/

#### **Previous Reports**

This sample was previously reported under the following report ID(s): 1226503,1226962

#### **Responsible Party**

Microbiology: Sharon Kluender, Lab Manager, 608-224-6262 Inorganic Chemistry: Tracy Hanke, Lab Manager, 608-224-6270 Metals: DeWayne Kennedy-Parker, Lab Manager, 608-224-6282 Organic Chemistry: Steve Geis, Lab Manager, 608-224-6269 Emergency Chemical Response: Noel Stanton, Lab Manager, 608-224-6251

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Sample Type:								SPECIAL INS	TRUCTIONS ちんみ レ	:	ETCE.
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WSLH SAMPLE		· · ·	TYPE	SAMPLE				FINAL	CANISTER	1	SAMPLER
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		S.A- Sleb Brignant	35	2/5-2/0/14				-1.5	E55-639		2235
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### Vapor Assessment Sample Collection Log

ake height:	~ 3	NA for SS
RGE VOLUME:	NA	NA for IA and OA
MPLING DEPTH:	NA	NA for IA and OA
woller, pub R	LAE 120	
	MPLING DEPTH:	MPLING DEPTH: NA Worker, p.p. RAE (20

Instrument/Weather Readings

Date	Time	Canister Vacuum (" of Hg)	Temp (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)	Air Speed (mph)	Barometric Pressure (" of Hg)	PID Reading (ppm/(ppb)
2/5/14	1406	-29	19.0	65	12.7	30.32	0
2/6/14	1406	-2	7.0	58	16.1	30.36	
	i		4		5		:

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Summa Canister Information:

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Sub-Slab Water Dam Test:

Canister Size:	11. (	(6L)
Canister ID#	ES3-6024	
Flow Controller ID#	5345	

est Passed:	Yes	No
A FOR AMBIENT A	IR SAMPLES	

4

General Notes/Observations:

Abbreviations:

NA = Not Applicable SS = Sub-Slab IA = Indoor Air OA = Outdoor Air

### Vapor Assessment Sample Collection Log

PROJECT:	VIZC- Clare Control	SAMPLE ID: 0-45:42	TYPE (Circ	le One)*: 55 IA @A
PROJECT #:	25213150.04	SAMPLE INTAKE HEIGHT:	~ 3`	NA for SS
LOCATION:	milwarka, WI	APPROX PURGE VOLUME:	NA	NA for IA and OA
SAMPLER:	S.S.th	APPROX SAMPLING DEPTH:	NA-	NA for IA and OA
EQUIPMENT:	Simon carry 24	In flor controller, pr	SRAE P	7-0
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · ·		

Instrument/Weather Readings

Date	Time	Canister Vacuum (" of Hg)	Temp (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)	Air Speed (mph)	Barometric Pressur <del>e</del> (" of Hg)	PID Reading (ppm(ppb))
2/5/14	1414	-27.5	19.0	65	12.7	30-32	
2/6/14	1340	~ 3	7.0	58	16.1	30.36	
•		· ·	÷	4			

Summa Canister Information:

Sub-Slab Water Dam Test:

4

Canister Size:	1L	6	Test Passed:	Yes	No
Canister ID# Es	1-6020		NA - FOR AMBIENT	AIR SAMPLES	
Flow Controller ID#	5343				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

General Notes/Observations:

•	Simon	c.n	Sample	collector.	_ stopped	Intere	fin	2-463	to	Vuos	sorre .
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			•	• .				•		•	ų -

Abbreviations:

NA = Not Applicable SS = Sub-Slab IA = Indoor Air OA = Outdoor Air

### Vapor Assessment Sample Collection Log

PROJECT:	VIZC- Clare Constral	SAMPLE ID: TYPE (Cir	cle One)*: SS IA OA
PROJECT #:	25213160.04	SAMPLE INTAKE HEIGHT: NA	NA for SS
LOCATION:	minundae WI	APPROX PURGE VOLUME: 3.5 L	NA for IA and OA
SAMPLER:	S. S. mith	APPROX SAMPLING DEPTH: 10	NA for IA and OA
EQUIPMENT:	Suma car Flow (1)	tono, ppbRAE 130 sibestub monit	à là, maga
tuba	•		

Instrument/Weather Readings

Date	Time	Canister Vacuum (" of Hg)	Temp (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)	Air Speed (mph)	Barometric Pressure (" of Hg)	PID Reading (ppm/@pb)
2/6/14	1435	-25	7.0	58	16.1	. 30 . 36	2709
2/0/14	1505	-1.5	7.0	55	10.4	30.36	
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Summa Canister Information:

Sub-Slab Water Dam Test:

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Canister Size:	1L	6	Test Passed:	(Yes)	No
Canister ID# $E \leq 5 - 6054$			NA - FOR AMBIENT AIR SAMPLES		
Flow Controller ID#	2235	1.5.11			

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General Notes/Observations:

۰,

Abbreviations:

NA = Not Applicable SS = Sub-Slab IA = Indoor Air OA = Outdoor Air

### ATTACHMENT B

Sample Location Photos

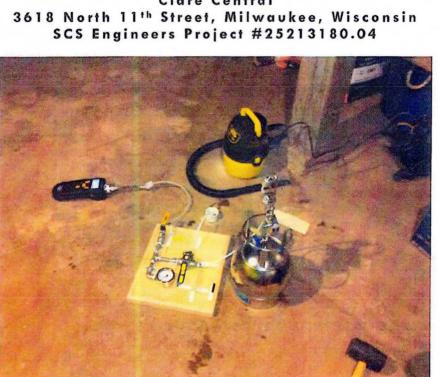




Photo 1: 2/5/2014 – Indoor air sample in basement of home.



**Photo 2:** 2/5/2014 –Outdoor air sample on front porch of home.



**Clare Central** 

Photo 3: 2/6/2014 – Set-up for water dam and shut-in test on sub-slab vapor probe in basement of home.



**Photo 4:** 2/6/2014 – Sample collection from sub-slab in basement of home.

Clare Central 3618 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin SCS Engineers Project #25213180.04



Photo 5: 2/6/2014 – Photograph of capped sub-slab vapor probe in basement of home.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES Division of Public Health

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## CHEMICAL FACT SHEET

### TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE)

#### WHAT IS TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a manufactured chemical. TCE does not occur naturally in the environment. It's a pale blue nonflammable liquid that evaporates easily and has a sweet smell. TCE is commonly used as a metal degreaser. In homes, TCE may be found in typewriter correction fluid, paint, spot removers, carpet-cleaning fluids, metal cleaners, and varnishes. TCE does not easily break down or degrade in soils and groundwater. Therefore, TCE contamination can stay in the environment for a long time.

Most TCE in air comes from metal degreasing activities associated with tool and automobile production. TCE can also enter ground water and surface water from industrial discharges or from improper disposal. TCE has been found in many drinking water supplies in the United States, including Wisconsin.

#### HOW ARE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

**Breathing:** Workers in degreasing operations have the highest risk of exposure to TCE. People who live near factories that use TCE may also be exposed to low TCE levels in the air. In homes, people who use TCE as a solvent (such as typewriter correction fluid or paint remover) have exposure; however, the extent of the actual exposure depends on the length of time and the amount of the product used. Showering in water highly contaminated with TCE can also be a source of exposure.

**Touching:** TCE can be absorbed through the skin. Therefore, people who use the compound without solvent-resistant gloves may be exposed.

**Drinking/Eating:** TCE released onto soil can enter groundwater. Therefore, people who drink water from wells located near TCE disposal sites may be exposed. The amount of TCE in commercial products is much more concentrated than in contaminated drinking water. Plants grown on contaminated soil do not accumulate TCE. TCE has been detected at very low levels in many processed foods as a result of its use in equipment-cleaning.

#### DO STANDARDS EXIST FOR REGULATING TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

**Water:** The state and federal drinking water standards for TCE are both set at 5 parts per billion (ppb). Municipal wells, which are regulated, are regularly tested for the presence of TCE. Water from unregulated private residential wells is sometimes contaminated with TCE from industry or old landfills. When groundwater in an area is found to have TCE, private well owners may be advised to stop drinking water containing more than the standard. In rare cases where levels of TCE are found to be very high in water you may be advised to avoid washing, bathing, or using the water for purposes other than toilet flushing.

Air: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates the amount of TCE that can be released into outdoor ambient air by industries.

The DNR has set a residential indoor air action level for TCE at 0.39 parts per billion by volume (ppbV). The action level is considered to be protective of public health. If TCE concentrations in air are above the action level, we recommend taking an action to halt exposure even if the levels are not high enough to cause immediate harm.

If TCE-containing products are being used around you, you may be able to smell the chemical. If you can smell the chemical, the level is too high to be safe for exposure over long periods of time. Therefore, TCE-containing products should either be used briefly in small amounts, or should be used in well-ventilated areas.

#### WILL EXPOSURE TO TRICHLOROETHYLENE RESULT IN HARMFUL HEALTH EFFECTS?

In general, a chemical will affect the same organ systems in all people who are exposed. However, the seriousness of the effects may vary from person to person. A person's reaction depends on several things, including individual health, heredity, previous exposure to chemicals including medicines, and personal habits such as smoking or drinking.

It's also important to consider the length of exposure to the chemical, the amount of chemical exposure, and whether the chemical was inhaled, touched, or eaten.

The following health effects may occur immediately or shortly after inhaling air that contains <u>very high</u> levels of TCE (more than 50,000 ppbV):

- Heart problems including cardiac arrhythmias;
- Nausea and vomiting;
- Serious liver injury;
- Dizziness, headache, neurological problems; and
- Eye, nose and throat irritation.

Exposures of this degree would usually only be found in occupational settings.

**Developmental Effects:** Animal studies indicate there may be an association between maternal exposure to TCE and specific heart defects in the offspring. There is some evidence that human exposure to TCE while pregnant may be associated with similar effects. Pregnant women should avoid exposure to TCE.

The following health effects can occur after several years of exposure to TCE:

**Cancer:** There is growing evidence in studies of animals and people who handle pure TCE (very high levels) of increased rates of cancers of the kidney, liver, and non-Hodgkins lymphoma. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently characterizes TCE as "carcinogenic to humans" by all routes of exposure.

**Other Effects:** In lab animals, inhaling TCE vapors or drinking TCE-contaminated water can cause effects in the kidney, liver and lung, and in the immune system. In order to protect the most sensitive people in the general public from TCE-related health effects, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and DNR screening values are set far below the concentrations known to cause effects.

#### CAN A MEDICAL TEST DETERMINE EXPOSURE TO TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

There are tests to detect TCE in the breath, urine, and blood of people exposed to high levels of the compound within the previous 24 hours. TCE cannot be measured in people when it results from long-term, low-level exposure. Those suspecting TCE exposure over a long period of time should contact their physician. Blood chemistry analyses, which include liver and kidney function tests, may be helpful.

Seek medical advice if you have any symptoms that you think may be related to chemical exposure.

This fact sheet summarizes information about this chemical and is not a complete listing of all possible effects. It does not refer to work exposure or emergency situations.

For more information, contact:

- Your local health department: <u>http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/</u>
- Division of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, (608) 266-1120: <u>http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/</u>

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