

From: Koch, Amanda A - DHS
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 4:06 PM
To: Maguire, Andrew; Hedman, Curtis J - DHS; Schultz, Josie M - DNR
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI
Attachments: TCE in Air Fact Sheet_English.pdf; Dry Cleaners Etc_Letter from DHS to remaining residents.docx

Hi all,

Six total letters for six remaining residences in New London were mailed out today. Enclosures included [ATSDR's TCE fact sheet](#), DHS's TCE fact sheet (attached), and EPA's property access consent form (Andy sent in previous email). The final letter template is also attached.

Thanks!

Amanda Koch, MPH

Health Educator | Hazard Assessment Section
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Division of Public Health | Wisconsin Department of Health Services
P: 608-267-2487 | F: 608-267-4853 | E: Amanda.Koch@dhs.wi.gov
OOO: 2/27

From: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:43 AM
To: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

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We can do 14 days, if it's possible. I think they can go 7-14 days, I'll double check and if we can do 14 days we will. I need to check with the library too and talk to them about it.

From: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 4:35 PM
To: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <amanda.koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

Good afternoon all -

Thanks for getting this sampling effort organized. WI DNR vapor intrusion scientist, Jim Walden, had shared with me previously that Radiello samplers have been used previously for Wisconsin VI

investigations and provided reliable data. It's unfortunate that vinyl chloride cannot be assessed with these samplers, but I agree that VC is not a priority contaminant of concern for this site.

The main reason I personally like the 14-day passive sampling timeframe is that it provides more time to catch potential high VOC spike events (i.e. - higher vapor incursions can happen with specific weather patterns, periodic building pressure changes, etc...). I understand, however, that sampling logistics and sampler limitations sometimes make this longer-term sampling unfeasible. A 7-day sampling timeframe should therefore be sufficient for the upcoming effort.

Best regards,

Curtis

Curtis Hedman, Ph.D.
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From: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 7:44 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

Thanks, Andy! I don't think I have an issue with that, but I'll allow Josie and Curtis to comment!

I'm planning on mailing out the letters to the remaining residents today.

Amanda Koch, MPH

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OOO: 2/27

From: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

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Hey all,

So I got some more info on the passive methods. For the indoor air my contractor is recommending a radiello sampling over 7 days. The issue is it wont work for vinyl chloride which is a breakdown product of TCE. Looking through the data, it doesn't look like vinyl chloride was detected in the previous samples at the library so I'm thinking it wont be an issue.

Thanks!
Andy

From: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

Sounds great; I will make that change. Glad you've made contact with the other homeowners. Thank you!

Amanda Koch, MPH

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OOO: 12/29-12/30

From: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI

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Hi Amanda,

Letter looks good but I would change the following sentence: "If TCE is found in the samples, EPA will ask to install a vapor intrusion mitigation system on your property." Instead of saying "will", I would change it to "may", it's likely if we find TCE we would at a minimum look to sample again before we took an action to install a system.

Attached is an english and Spanish version of the access agreement. Not sure if we need the Spanish version but I'll usually print it two sided with english on one side, Spanish on the other...

Also, I called the two homes we have access letters for in New London and they are ok with the week of 1/16. I still need to talk to the tenant of one of the homes but hopefully she'll be ok with it.

Andy

From: Koch, Amanda A - DHS <Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Schultz, Josie M - DNR <josie.schultz@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hedman, Curtis J - DHS <Curtis.Hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: DHS letter to remaining residents - Dry Cleaners Etc, New London, WI
Importance: High

Hi Andy and Josie,

Attached is a letter we would like to mail to remaining residents who have not responded to previous attempts for sampling. We mailed a similarly formatter letter to residents for another TCE site and thought that attempt went well. This effort focuses on the use of plain language to describe the problem and potential solutions.

Can you both read the letter and correct it for accuracy? Also, Andy, I think it would be best (and quickest and cost-free) if folks were to return their signed agreement to you electronically, but I included instructions for reaching out to you in case they prefer to snail mail. Let me know if you're OK with that plan.

We would include the EPA access agreement (Andy, can you please email me a template?) and additional DHS and ATSDR fact sheets on TCE and vapor intrusion.

If you can both please do this as soon as possible, then I will mail these out upon returning to the office after the New Year.

Thank you!

Amanda Koch, MPH

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OOO: 12/29-12/30

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TTY: 711 or 800-947-3529

<Home Owner>
<Address>
<City, state zip>

Subject: Nearby environmental contamination and possible impacts to your home and health

Dear NAME,

In collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is investigating a site of environmental contamination in your neighborhood. This site is located at 102 East Cook Street and is currently a video game store. Previously, this site was Dry Cleaners Etc., a dry-cleaning facility that left behind contamination from the chemicals it used on-site.

The DHS, DNR, and EPA believe that your home may be impacted by the contamination and are requesting to sample your home.

What is the environmental contamination?

The chemical trichloroethylene (TCE) has been identified as the main chemical of concern in this investigation. TCE is a man-made chemical that has many industrial uses and is commonly used to clean metal. When TCE is spilled into the environment, it can stay in the ground for a long time and affect the soil and groundwater in the area. TCE can travel long distances through the ground and along utility lines. Then, it can come up the soil in the form of vapor and enter the foundation of nearby homes. When the TCE vapor gets into the indoor air, this is called **vapor intrusion**. Vapor intrusion can present health concerns for people living in the building and breathing in contaminated air over long periods of time. **The included fact sheet contains more information on TCE and vapor intrusion.**

What is EPA requesting of me?

The EPA is investigating how far the contamination has spread. Because the contamination may have spread to your home, EPA is asking for access to your property to collect air samples. The samples will help determine whether your home and anyone living there are at risk. EPA would place a canister in your basement or crawl space and potentially at other locations inside your home for 24 hours, after which time EPA will return to retrieve the canister(s). The samples will be tested at a laboratory for TCE and a copy of the results will be given to you.

What if there are high levels of TCE in the samples?

If TCE is found in the samples, EPA may ask to install a vapor intrusion mitigation system on your property. The mitigation system will move harmful air with TCE away from your home to ensure that the indoor air is cleaner and safer to breathe.

Will there be any costs associated with this?

All testing and any installation, inspection, and upkeep of a vapor intrusion mitigation system will be at no cost to you until the DNR decides that the investigation and cleanup efforts are complete. When the investigation is complete, any ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the mitigation system will transfer to the property owner.

What are next steps?

If this plan is agreeable to you, please sign the included Access Agreement form and return it to EPA by emailing a scanned copy or a photo of the completed form to Andy Maguire, EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator, at maguire.andrew@epa.gov. Then, Andy will contact you to discuss and schedule the work. If you prefer to mail the form, please contact Andy for mailing instructions.

What if I have additional questions about the contamination and request to access my home?

Please contact the EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator, Andy Maguire, at 312-758-8672 or maguire.andrew@epa.gov.

What if I have additional questions about how the contamination may affect my health?

Please contact me, Amanda Koch, at 608-267-2487 or amanda.koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Amanda Koch, MPH | Health Educator | Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Division of Public Health | Wisconsin Department of Health Services | 608-267-2487

Enclosures: TCE Fact Sheet | Property Access Agreement Form

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 to clean metal in some factories and is found 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 health professionals will ask to check your home to make sure there is no TCE inside.

They need your permission to drill in your basement and test.

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 spill will probably have to pay for the testing and any repairs that have to be made.

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?

- [Vapor Intrusion 101 \(video\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izo0QKqCToU):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=izo0QKqCToU
- [Vapor Intrusion Investigation — Information Sheet for Neighbors](https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR067.pdf):
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR067.pdf>
- [Why Test for Vapor Intrusion?](https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR953.pdf):
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR953.pdf>
- [Mitigation: Protection from Vapor Intrusion](https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR094.pdf):
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR094.pdf>

