

Tony Evers  
Governor

Kirsten L. Johnson  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**  
Department of Health Services

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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MADISON WI 53701-2659

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February 6, 2024

Regina Hackney  
8715 W Fond du Lac Ave #17  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Dear Regina,

On December 13, 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), tested the air inside your child care center located at 8715 Fond du Lac Avenue #17 in Milwaukee. The air was tested for the chemicals tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE). This letter explains why the air testing was offered, what was found, and what the results mean.

**Summary:**

**Why We Visited**

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We investigated whether chemicals from nearby industrial contamination could be contaminating the air inside your current and prospective child care centers.

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**What We Found**

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There were no health concerns found in the air testing results in your current and prospective child care centers.

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**How We Found It**

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We tested your indoor air with air monitors which showed that PCE and TCE chemicals were below levels of health concern.

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**Next Steps**

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No further action is required.

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**For More Information**

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Contact Amanda Koch at [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or 608-267-2487.

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**Background: Because your child care center is near a PCE and TCE chemical spill site, the DHS and MHD offered to test your indoor air to find out whether these chemicals were present at harmful levels.**

Your center is near a site of environmental contamination, located at 8711A W Fond du Lac Avenue. This site, known as the former One Hour Martinizing, used to be a dry-cleaning business that left large amounts of PCE and TCE behind in the ground. Chemicals like PCE and TCE can easily move long distances under the ground, through soil and groundwater, and enter nearby buildings through cracks and gaps in their foundation. Once inside, PCE and TCE can contaminate the indoor air. People can experience short-term and long-term health effects when they breathe in air with PCE and TCE, especially over long periods of time. Children and pregnant women are especially at risk for negative health effects from breathing in PCE and TCE. See Page 3 for more information on the health effects from exposure to PCE and TCE.

**Investigation: For this investigation, we walked through the indoor spaces used for child care, set up air monitors indoors and outdoors, and tested those air monitors for PCE and TCE at a laboratory.**

On December 13, 2023, DHS and MHD staff visited your center to set up the indoor air monitors. These monitors were used to measure PCE and TCE levels in the air. A total of three

Assay Technology TraceAir® II 525 passive organic vapor air monitors were hung inside and outside your center.

<b>Air Monitor Locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School classroom (northwest wall)</li> <li>• Middle classroom</li> <li>• Outside (near front parking lot)</li> </ul>
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We left the air monitors in place for one week. On December 20, 2023, MHD returned to your properties to collect the air monitors. MHD sent them to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison for analysis. Each monitor was tested for both PCE and TCE.

**Results and Discussion: Levels of PCE and TCE were below levels of health concern.**

In the table below, you'll find a summary of the air monitor laboratory analysis conducted at your child care center. The results are compared to Wisconsin's acceptable Vapor Action Level (VAL) for residential buildings, which is 42 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for PCE and 2.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for TCE<sup>1</sup>. If a chemical is found above the VAL, there could be a health concern. If the chemical is found below the VAL, there is usually no health concern. All results from your centers were found below the VAL.

<b>Monitor Location and Number</b> <i>Where the monitor was placed and its identification number</i>	<b>Test Result</b> <i>The result in micrograms per cubic meter (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Residential Vapor Action Level (VAL)</b> <i>The health-based guideline we compare to (in <math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Interpretation</b> <i>What the comparison means</i>
<b>School classroom (northwest wall)</b> QN18962	PCE = 1.4	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.4	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Middle classroom</b> QN18859	PCE = 1.1	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.4	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Outside (front)</b> QN19125	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.4	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.

**Site Visit Limitations: The results from this site visit are from a snapshot in time.**

These results can only be used to understand the air quality in your child care center during 12/13/2023-12/20/2023.

**Human Health Concerns: People exposed to PCE and TCE can experience negative health effects.**

The primary target for PCE toxicity is the central nervous system<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to moderate amounts of PCE may cause dizziness or drowsiness, headache and loss of coordination. Exposure to low amounts of PCE over a long time period may cause changes in mood, memory, attention, reaction time, and vision. Animal studies also show PCE has toxic effects on the liver and kidney. Research studies among people suggest that PCE might lead to a higher

risk of developing bladder cancer, multiple myeloma, or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The central nervous system is also a target for TCE toxicity, and exposure to moderate amounts may cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to higher levels of TCE can also cause heart rhythm changes and damage to the liver and kidney. Human and animal studies show that TCE may cause developmental effects such as miscarriage, congenital heart defects, central nervous system defects, and lowered birth weight. There is strong evidence that TCE exposure over long periods can cause kidney cancer and some evidence for TCE to increase risk for liver cancer and malignant lymphoma.

**Conclusions: The air inside your child care center is not affected by PCE or TCE contamination at this time.**

Since the air inside your center tested below the VAL for PCE and TCE, it is unlikely that your center is affected by the nearby chemical spill.

**Recommendations: There are no recommendations related to our findings at this time.**

Thank you for allowing us to investigate the environmental health safety of your child care centers. Please contact me at (608) 267-2487 or [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about this letter or its contents.

Sincerely,



**Amanda Koch, MPH** | Health Educator  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



**Danika Hill-Paulus, MS, RS** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
**Lindor Schmidt** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
City of Milwaukee Health Department

References:

<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin DNR Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels and Vapor Risk Screening Levels Based on November 2017 U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels. Accessed online at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/documents/vapor/vapor-quick.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp18.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp19.pdf>.

*This publication was made possible by a cooperative agreement [program # TS-23-0001] from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the ATSDR, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

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February 6, 2024

Jami Nash  
8749 W Fond du Lac Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Dear Jami,

On December 6, 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), tested the air inside your child care center located at 8749 W Fond du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee. The air was tested for the chemicals tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE). This letter explains why the air testing was offered, what was found, and what the results mean.

**Summary:**

**Why We Visited**

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We investigated whether chemicals from nearby industrial contamination could be contaminating the air inside your current and prospective child care centers.

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**What We Found**

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There were no health concerns found in the air testing results in your current and prospective child care centers.

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**How We Found It**

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We tested your indoor air with air monitors which showed that PCE and TCE chemicals were below levels of health concern.

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**Next Steps**

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No further action is required.

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**For More Information**

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Contact Amanda Koch at [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or 608-267-2487.

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**Background: Because your child care center is near a PCE and TCE chemical spill site, the DHS and MHD offered to test your indoor air to find out whether these chemicals were present at harmful levels.**

Your center is near a site of environmental contamination, located at 8711A W Fond du Lac Avenue. This site, known as the former One Hour Martinizing, used to be a dry-cleaning business that left large amounts of PCE and TCE behind in the ground. Chemicals like PCE and TCE can easily move long distances under the ground, through soil and groundwater, and enter nearby buildings through cracks and gaps in their foundation. Once inside, PCE and TCE can contaminate the indoor air. People can experience short-term and long-term health effects when they breathe in air with PCE and TCE, especially over long periods of time. Children and pregnant women are especially at risk for negative health effects from breathing in PCE and TCE. See Page 3 for more information on the health effects from exposure to PCE and TCE.

**Investigation: For this investigation, we walked through the indoor spaces used for child care, set up air monitors indoors and outdoors, and tested those air monitors for PCE and TCE at a laboratory.**

On December 6, 2023, DHS and MHD staff visited your center to set up the indoor air monitors. These monitors were used to measure PCE and TCE levels in the air. A total of four Assay

Technology TraceAir® II 525 passive organic vapor air monitors were hung inside and outside your center.

<b>Air Monitor Locations</b>	• Baby room (southeast wall above crib)	• Toddler classroom (west wall)
	• Outside near dry cleaner site (rear)	• Outside near dry cleaner site (front)

We left the air monitors in place for one week. On December 13, 2023, MHD returned to your properties to collect the air monitors. MHD sent them to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison for analysis. Each monitor was tested for both PCE and TCE.

### Results and Discussion: Levels of PCE and TCE were below levels of health concern.

In the table below, you'll find a summary of the air monitor laboratory analysis conducted at your child care center. The results are compared to Wisconsin's acceptable Vapor Action Level (VAL) for residential buildings, which is 42 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for PCE and 2.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for TCE<sup>1</sup>. If a chemical is found above the VAL, there could be a health concern. If the chemical is found below the VAL, there is usually no health concern. All results from your centers were found below the VAL.

<b>Monitor Location and Number</b> <i>Where the monitor was placed and its identification number</i>	<b>Test Result</b> <i>The result in micrograms per cubic meter (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Residential Vapor Action Level (VAL)</b> <i>The health-based guideline we compare to (in <math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Interpretation</b> <i>What the comparison means</i>
<b>Baby room</b> QN18874	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Toddler classroom</b> QN18403	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Outside near dry cleaner site (rear)</b> QN18995	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Outside near dry cleaner site (front)</b> QN19583	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.

### Site Visit Limitations: The results from this site visit are from a snapshot in time.

These results can only be used to understand the air quality in your child care center during 12/6/2023-12/13/2023.

**Human Health Concerns: People exposed to PCE and TCE can experience negative health effects.**

The primary target for PCE toxicity is the central nervous system<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to moderate amounts of PCE may cause dizziness or drowsiness, headache and loss of coordination. Exposure to low amounts of PCE over a long time period may cause changes in mood, memory, attention, reaction time, and vision. Animal studies also show PCE has toxic effects on the liver and kidney. Research studies among people suggest that PCE might lead to a higher risk of developing bladder cancer, multiple myeloma, or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The central nervous system is also a target for TCE toxicity, and exposure to moderate amounts may cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to higher levels of TCE can also cause heart rhythm changes and damage to the liver and kidney. Human and animal studies show that TCE may cause developmental effects such as miscarriage, congenital heart defects, central nervous system defects, and lowered birth weight. There is strong evidence that TCE exposure over long periods can cause kidney cancer and some evidence for TCE to increase risk for liver cancer and malignant lymphoma.

**Conclusions: The air inside your child care center is not affected by PCE or TCE contamination at this time.**

Since the air inside your center tested below the VAL for PCE and TCE, it is unlikely that your center is affected by the nearby chemical spill.

**Recommendations: There are no recommendations related to our findings at this time.**

Thank you for allowing us to investigate the environmental health safety of your child care centers. Please contact me at (608) 267-2487 or [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about this letter or its contents.

Sincerely,



**Amanda Koch, MPH** | Health Educator  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



**Danika Hill-Paulus, MS, RS** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
**Lindor Schmidt** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
City of Milwaukee Health Department

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin DNR Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels and Vapor Risk Screening Levels Based on November 2017 U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels. Accessed online at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/documents/vapor/vapor-quick.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp18.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp19.pdf>.

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February 6, 2024

Sharon McKinley  
8713A W Fond du Lac Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Dear Sharon,

On December 6, 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), tested the air inside your child care center located at 8713A W Fond du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee. The air was tested for the chemicals tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE). This letter explains why the air testing was offered, what was found, and what the results mean.

**Summary:**

**Why We Visited**

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We investigated whether chemicals from nearby industrial contamination could be contaminating the air inside your current and prospective child care centers.

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**What We Found**

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There were no health concerns found in the air testing results in your current and prospective child care centers.

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**How We Found It**

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We tested your indoor air with air monitors which showed that PCE and TCE chemicals were below levels of health concern.

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**Next Steps**

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No further action is required.

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**For More Information**

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Contact Amanda Koch at [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or 608-267-2487.

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**Background: Because your child care center is near a PCE and TCE chemical spill site, the DHS and MHD offered to test your indoor air to find out whether these chemicals were present at harmful levels.**

Your center is near a site of environmental contamination, located at 8711A W Fond du Lac Avenue. This site, known as the former One Hour Martinizing, used to be a dry-cleaning business that left large amounts of PCE and TCE behind in the ground. Chemicals like PCE and TCE can easily move long distances under the ground, through soil and groundwater, and enter nearby buildings through cracks and gaps in their foundation. Once inside, PCE and TCE can contaminate the indoor air. People can experience short-term and long-term health effects when they breathe in air with PCE and TCE, especially over long periods of time. Children and pregnant women are especially at risk for negative health effects from breathing in PCE and TCE. See Page 3 for more information on the health effects from exposure to PCE and TCE.

**Investigation: For this investigation, we walked through the indoor spaces used for child care, set up air monitors indoors and outdoors, and tested those air monitors for PCE and TCE at a laboratory.**

On December 6, 2023, DHS and MHD staff visited your center to set up the indoor air monitors. These monitors were used to measure PCE and TCE levels in the air. A total of six Assay

Technology TraceAir® II 525 passive organic vapor air monitors were hung inside and outside your center.

<b>Air Monitor Locations in Your Center</b>	• East classroom	• Utility box (rear)
	• Middle classroom (baby room)	• West classroom (rear)
	• Outside (rear)	• Outside (front)

We left the air monitors in place for one week. On December 13, 2023, MHD returned to your properties to collect the air monitors. MHD sent them to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison for analysis. Each monitor was tested for both PCE and TCE.

### Results and Discussion: Levels of PCE and TCE were below levels of health concern.

In the table below, you'll find a summary of the air monitor laboratory analysis conducted at your child care center. The results are compared to Wisconsin's acceptable Vapor Action Level (VAL) for residential buildings, which is 42 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for PCE and 2.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for TCE<sup>1</sup>. If a chemical is found above the VAL, there could be a health concern. If the chemical is found below the VAL, there is usually no health concern. All results from your centers were found below the VAL.

<b>Monitor Location and Number</b> <i>Where the monitor was placed and its identification number</i>	<b>Test Result</b> <i>The result in micrograms per cubic meter (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Residential Vapor Action Level (VAL)</b> <i>The health-based guideline we compare to (in <math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<b>Interpretation</b> <i>What the comparison means</i>
<b>East classroom</b> QN18843	PCE = 2.9	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Utility box</b> QN18391	PCE = 3.2	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Middle classroom</b> QN18826	PCE = 3	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>West classroom</b> QN18527	PCE = 3	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Outdoor (rear)</b> QN18995	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
<b>Outdoor (front)</b> QN19583	PCE = less than 0.48	42	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.
	TCE = less than 0.40	2.1	The result is below the VAL and means there is no health concern.



**Site Visit Limitations: The results from this site visit are from a snapshot in time.**

These results can only be used to understand the air quality in your child care center during 12/6/2023-12/13/2023.

**Human Health Concerns: People exposed to PCE and TCE can experience negative health effects.**

The primary target for PCE toxicity is the central nervous system<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to moderate amounts of PCE may cause dizziness or drowsiness, headache and loss of coordination. Exposure to low amounts of PCE over a long time period may cause changes in mood, memory, attention, reaction time, and vision. Animal studies also show PCE has toxic effects on the liver and kidney. Research studies among people suggest that PCE might lead to a higher risk of developing bladder cancer, multiple myeloma, or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The central nervous system is also a target for TCE toxicity, and exposure to moderate amounts may cause headaches, dizziness, and sleepiness<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to higher levels of TCE can also cause heart rhythm changes and damage to the liver and kidney. Human and animal studies show that TCE may cause developmental effects such as miscarriage, congenital heart defects, central nervous system defects, and lowered birth weight. There is strong evidence that TCE exposure over long periods can cause kidney cancer and some evidence for TCE to increase risk for liver cancer and malignant lymphoma.

**Conclusions: The air inside your child care center is not affected by PCE or TCE contamination at this time.**

Since the air inside your center tested below the VAL for PCE and TCE, it is unlikely that your center is affected by the nearby chemical spill.

**Recommendations: There are no recommendations related to our findings at this time.**

Thank you for allowing us to investigate the environmental health safety of your child care centers. Please contact me at (608) 267-2487 or [Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amanda.Koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about this letter or its contents.

Sincerely,



**Amanda Koch, MPH** | Health Educator  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



**Danika Hill-Paulus, MS, RS** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
**Lindor Schmidt** | Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Coordinator  
City of Milwaukee Health Department

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin DNR Indoor Air Vapor Action Levels and Vapor Risk Screening Levels Based on November 2017 U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels. Accessed online at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/documents/vapor/vapor-quick.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp18.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2019. Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene. Accessed online at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp19.pdf>.

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