

## EPA CONTINUING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN THE HOCKESSIN COMMUNITY

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing its environmental assessment of the Hockessin Groundwater Site. The Site consists of approximately 32 acres along DE State Route 41 through Hockessin, and encompasses numerous commercial properties businesses and residential properties.

The primary contaminants of concern found in groundwater at the Site are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). These chemicals are commonly found in dry cleaning solvents and other industrial solvents and degreasers.

Since 2005, EPA has been assisting the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) in investigating the contamination in the groundwater in Hockessin, which supplies the town's drinking water.

**The public drinking water supplied by Artesian Water Company is treated with carbon filtration to remove VOCs and continues to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act standards, as shared annually in Artesian's water quality reports, available at this website:**

<http://www.artesianwater.com/WQR/AWC2015.pdf>

Current efforts by the EPA will help further delineate the groundwater contamination plume, understand groundwater flow and help to identify potential vapor intrusion problems. Vapor intrusion is the term used to describe the migration of volatile chemicals from contaminated groundwater and soils into the indoor air spaces of overlying buildings or homes through openings in the foundation, utility lines, etc. →

To learn more about vapor intrusion, please review the enclosed fact sheet or visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/vaporintrusion>

## 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

EPA began an environmental assessment in September 2016, which included an assessment of soil vapor, groundwater and surface water in the town of Hockessin.

As part of the investigation, EPA sampled existing municipal, irrigation, and residential wells in the area. The results indicated PCE and other chemicals were present in some soil vapor and groundwater samples. Mill Creek and other surface water samples did not indicate PCE and other chemicals at concentrations of concern. Generally, the results of the soil vapor testing did not suggest wide spread contamination or concentrations of PCE at levels that would present a risk.

The 2016 soil vapor and groundwater sampling results were used to determine which residential and commercial buildings should be tested in the area for vapor intrusion as a precautionary measure.

When reports and updates are available they will be posted on EPA's website for the Hockessin Groundwater site at:

<https://www.epaossc.org/Hockessingroundwater>

## NEXT STEPS

During the winter months, out of an abundance of caution, EPA will begin sub-slab indoor vapor sampling at selected residences and commercial buildings on the Site. These residents/owners have been contacted by an EPA representative →

to obtain access to the properties prior to sampling. EPA's continuing vapor intrusion assessment is being performed to evaluate if vapors from the groundwater contamination are possibly moving upwards through the ground into nearby buildings. As part of the continuing vapor intrusion investigation, EPA plans to:

1. Install approximately six sub-slab soil gas vapor points at the residential and commercial properties.
2. Collect sub-slab soil gas vapor samples from these locations and submit them for laboratory analysis. Based on the results of these data, EPA will decide if the buildings require precautionary measures to prevent vapor intrusion. Further, the results will help determine areas where vapor intrusion has the potential to be a problem.
3. The results of the sampling activities should be available to the residents, businesses and the community by Spring 2017. The sampling results will help determine if any additional homes or businesses should be sampled for possible vapor intrusion. If needed, additional homes or businesses may be contacted directly by the EPA for the additional sampling.

## What You May Notice in the Area

- EPA personnel and contractors;
- Utility and water company personnel;
- Monitoring and sampling equipment.

EPA will continue to keep the community informed about the progress of the environmental assessment in the area.

Please contact us if you should have any questions or concerns; contact information is available on the back of this brochure. →

## SITE HISTORY

Since 2005, EPA has been assisting DNREC with the investigation of the contamination in the groundwater in Hockessin.

Current efforts by the EPA will help to further delineate the groundwater contamination plume and identify potential vapor intrusion problems.

In 2014-2015, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health Office of Drinking Water and DNREC sampled one irrigation well and numerous residential wells in the area.

Of the 30 residential water wells sampled, three indicated low levels of PCE. To address the concern, DNREC installed whole-house water treatment systems at the three properties.

In 2016, DNREC and EPA conducted a study to provide a general overview of historical environmental conditions in the area to identify possible sources of the PCE in the Hockessin potable water supply.

The origin of the PCE has not yet been fully determined, however, dry cleaner operations in the vicinity of the Site are suspected as potential sources for the groundwater contamination.

The EPA will continue to investigate the groundwater contamination in the area to help determine the extent of contamination, and a potential source or sources.



Above: An EPA contractor is shown performing a soil vapor assessment using a Geoprobe Drill Rig.

## RESOURCES

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Vapor Intrusion Information (case sensitive):

<http://go.usa.gov/x9yq8>

EPA Vapor Intrusion Website: (case sensitive)

<http://go.usa.gov/v5K>

ATSDR PCE Information: (case sensitive):

<http://go.usa.gov/x9nwm>

ATSDR TCE Information: (case sensitive):

<http://go.usa.gov/x9nwz>

Artesian Water Quality Reports:

<http://www.artesianwater.com/customer-service-center/artesian-water-quality-reports>

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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## Community Update



## HOCKESSIN Groundwater SITE



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