



Louisa Acme Well Site -- Groundwater Investigation -- Louisa, Louisa County, VA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 March 23, 2011

Groundwater Investigation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with the Virginia Department of Environment Quality (VDEQ) and Department of Health (VDH) to investigate groundwater contamination found near the old Louisa Acme Well, located near Jefferson Highway in Louisa, VA.

The old town well, called the "Acme Well," has not been in use for over 20 years. In a recent interest to potentially put the well back into operation, the Town of Louisa had the well water tested and found elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene (also known as PCE or "perc").

Based on the testing results, VDEQ requested EPA's assistance in addressing the contamination.

EPA has started two separate actions at the Site, a "Removal Action" and a "Removal Assessment."

- The removal action addresses the immediate need to protect human health and the environment.
- The removal assessment involves an investigation into the groundwater contamination.

Work Done to Date

Under the removal action, EPA provided bottled water for drinking purposes to residents where contamination was detected, while connecting those residences to a public water supply line.

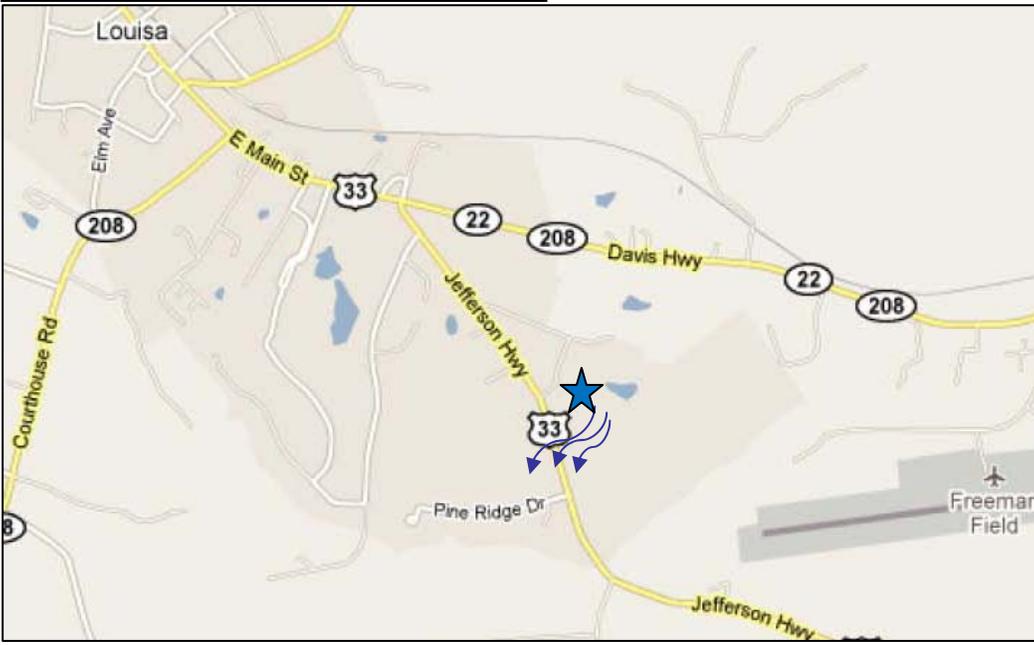
Of the residential wells sampled, two were found to have elevated levels of contamination. To eliminate potential exposure to the contaminated groundwater, EPA worked with town officials and the Louisa County Water Authority to connect those two residences to the existing public water system. The public water line connections were completed earlier this month, at no cost to the residents.

Most nearby residents are already connected to a public water supply, provided by either the Town of Louisa or the Louisa County Water Authority. Public water supplies are routinely tested and must meet federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Under the removal assessment, EPA tested private wells on Davis Highway and the well that services the mobile home community on Jefferson Highway. Results for those wells have shown **no** elevated levels of contamination.

EPA will be testing groundwater quality down-gradient from the Acme Well location. As part of the investigation, additional private residential wells may also be sampled.

★ = General location of Acme Well
 ↓ = General direction of groundwater flow
 Map not to scale.



Getting Your Well Water Tested

During this investigation, if you live down-gradient of the Acme Well location (← shown on Map) and you are interested in getting your residential drinking well tested, please contact: Trish Taylor, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at (215) 814-5539 or e-mail at taylor.trish@epa.gov to set up an appointment.

Next Steps

EPA is conducting a removal assessment of the groundwater contamination, specifically looking for:

- ✓ the extent of contamination (how big of an area does it affect?)
- ✓ the source(s) of contamination,
- ✓ the concentration of contamination (how high are the levels of PCE found?), and
- ✓ other possible contaminated media (is there contamination in the soil, sediment or surface water, like streams and ponds?)

Another part of the investigation will focus on potential Vapor Intrusion from the contaminated groundwater.

Vapor Intrusion can occur when chemicals in contaminated groundwater off-gas (vaporize) and the vapors come up through the layers of soil and into the buildings or homes located at the surface.

EPA will be asking a limited number of residents for permission to collect air samples from crawl spaces to check for possible vapor intrusion. This work is estimated to begin this summer, pending work schedules and weather conditions.

What is Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)?

Tetrachloroethylene, also known as PCE, is a chemical ingredient used in some dry cleaning, industrial solvents and grease cleaners.

It is a suspected carcinogen and long-term exposure to elevated levels can cause potential health risks.

For more detailed information on tetrachloroethylene, visit the Agency for Toxic Substance and Registry (ATSDR) website at: www.atsdr.cdc.gov

Brief Site Background

- ❖ The Site was brought to EPA's attention after the Town of Louisa contacted VDEQ regarding samples from the old Acme Well that showed high levels of tetrachloroethylene.
- ❖ The Louisa Acme Well is not considered the source of the contamination, but will be used as a starting location for the removal assessment.
- ❖ EPA is working on this project with:
 - Town of Louisa
 - Louisa County Water Authority
 - Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
 - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
 - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Visit EPA's Louisa Acme Well Site Website at
www.epaos.org/louisaacmewell

EPA Contacts:

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