

EPA to Begin Soil Cleanup and Residential Sampling

Antique Chrome Shop Facility

Indianapolis, Indiana

August 2020

For more information

EPA will host a virtual public meeting regarding the Antique Chrome Shop facility's cleanup on Thursday, September 3, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. ET. Join us online at <https://bit.ly/ChromeShop>.

To learn more about the cleanup or sampling, contact:

For technical questions

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For general questions

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For additional information about the site, please visit

<http://response.epa.gov/formerhoytmachine>

Background

The Antique Chrome Shop, also known as the former Hoyt Machine Shop, is located at 1544 Samoa Street. The facility was used for industrial purposes beginning in the 1920s until 2011. In May 2020, at the request of the City of Indianapolis, EPA tested soil and soil gas for hazardous substances. EPA detected high concentrations of trichloroethene, or TCE, and lead in on-site soil and high TCE in soil gas south of the site near residential properties.

EPA found that an environmental problem known as “vapor intrusion” may be occurring. Vapor intrusion takes place when chemicals in soil and groundwater give off gases that can rise through the soil and seep into buildings through foundations. TCE quickly evaporates from surface water, so it is commonly found as a vapor in the air. It is also a common groundwater contaminant. TCE dissolves in water, but it can remain in groundwater for a long time. It is usually when TCE volatilizes from groundwater that vapors can then impact indoor air, which may be happening here.

EPA is planning to conduct cleanup and treatment of the contaminated soil on-site, slated to begin in September 2020.

In preparation of the cleanup and treatment, EPA will host a virtual public meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. ET. EPA staff working on the site will be available to answer your questions (*see side box for more information*).



Photo shows remaining facility buildings: an abandoned house and warehouse.

What is TCE?

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, is a colorless, volatile liquid. Liquid TCE evaporates quickly into the air. It is nonflammable and has a sweet odor. The two major uses of TCE are as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts and as a chemical that is used to make other chemicals, especially refrigerants. TCE has also been used as an extraction solvent for greases, oils, fats, waxes, and tars; by the textile processing industry to scour cotton, wool, and other fabrics; in dry cleaning operations; and as a component of adhesives, lubricants, paints, varnishes, paint strippers, pesticides, and cold metal cleaners. The health effects of TCE depend on how much you are exposed to and the length of that exposure.

For more information on TCE and its effects, download the Agency of Toxic Substance and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) ToxFAQs sheet, available at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf>.

Additional Testing

EPA will be testing air inside homes for TCE. The sampling boundaries are within the 1800 block of Brookside Avenue between Hamilton Avenue and Samoa Street (*see map, right*). EPA will ask residents in this area to sign a document called an "access agreement." Access is voluntary, and there is no cost to homeowners for testing. If you do not sign the agreement, your home will not be tested.

EPA staff will directly contact those residents in the sampling area to test inside their homes. If we find high levels of TCE in the air inside these homes, EPA will install vapor mitigation systems at no cost to the homeowners. Mitigation systems are usually made up of a fan and a system of pipes that draw the soil gases from beneath your home and release them outside so they can scatter and break down naturally. They are used frequently for radon gas mitigation.

Indoor Air Sampling

Sampling will involve the use of Summa canisters, which are vessels used to collect whole air samples inside of a property. Summa canisters are specially treated stainless-steel containers that are chemically deactivated to produce an internal inert (inactive) surface, which are then filled with sampled air. After the canisters are left in a property and filled for 24 hours, they are sent to a laboratory to identify which chemicals, if any, are present in the air.

Community Interviews

While continuing to study the nature and extent of contamination at the site, EPA will also conduct public outreach activities to learn the informational and communication needs of the community.

The agency's first step in building positive relationships with community members is through one-on-one conversations (interviews) with residents to learn about their site-related concerns and the preferred way to receive information about the site. During a short interview, EPA staff will ask questions to help us understand your community's concerns about ongoing investigations and cleanup at the site.

The information gathered from residents will be used to create a Community Involvement Plan, a communication strategy guide that the agency follows to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund cleanup process.

If you'd like to participate in a short interview with EPA staff, please contact Kirstin Safakas, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at:

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Site boundaries are within the Brookside Bunch neighborhood; site boundaries are in yellow, while residential sampling locations are in green.