

EPA Continues Monitoring for Vapor Intrusion

Trex Property Site
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Contact information

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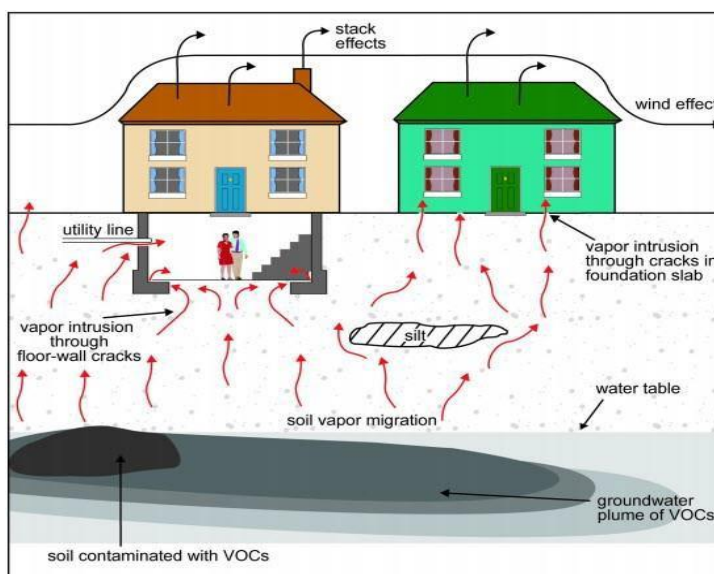
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with the representatives from the city, county, and state, is expanding the investigation at the Trex Property Grand Rapids Site, a vapor intrusion site in the southwest area of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The soil and groundwater near the commercial building located at 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW that was formerly owned by the Detrex Company is contaminated with trichloroethylene, or TCE. TCE belongs to a family of chemicals that evaporate quickly in the atmosphere. Vapors originating from the polluted soil and/or groundwater can migrate through a building's foundation and contaminate the indoor air. This movement of vapors into buildings is known as vapor intrusion.



TCE is used in many industries and can be found in consumer products. However, exposure to TCE can affect your health. Exposure to moderate amounts of TCE vapors can cause headaches and dizziness, and nerve damage. Exposure to high concentrations of TCE can cause damage to your heart, liver, kidneys and may also cause some types of cancer.

EPA has overseen sampling at additional nearby buildings to determine whether TCE vapors are entering into the buildings at levels that may cause health concerns. The sampling was completed by Trex, a potentially responsible party, or PRP, for the site. The current information does not indicate any impacts to residential properties. However, if additional TCE-related indoor air threats are identified at nearby properties through indoor air sampling, those properties may require mitigation. The mitigation systems will be installed and maintained by the PRP. EPA also oversaw a pilot test to evaluate the effectiveness of zero valent iron technology in treating groundwater contamination at the site.

Next steps

EPA will expand the investigation at the Trex site to identify additional contamination in soil gas, indoor air, and groundwater beyond the current site boundaries. The upcoming work will include:

Continued on next page

- Collecting soil gas samples from sanitary and storm sewers to assess potential TCE migration and vapor intrusion.
- Collecting indoor air and soil gas samples at additional properties to determine if buildings within the footprint of the groundwater plume are experiencing vapor intrusion issues from the former Detrex Company. This work is pending access from property owners.
- Further mitigation of contamination including evaluating additional methods to clean up the soil and groundwater, and further protective measures as modification to building ventilation and installation of vapor mitigation systems, where necessary.

All additional investigation and remediation activities will be conducted by Trex and its contractors. Trex has submitted numerous workplans for EPA approval, including an Emergency Contingency Plan, or ECP. The purpose of the ECP is to provide emergency protocols if a response by local emergency authorities is required during field activities. The plan will be distributed to local police, fire department, and hospitals to communicate about upcoming work and types of emergencies that could arise.

Site history

The property located at 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW was used as a solvent sale, equipment cleaning and solvent waste collection facility from the 1960's to the 1990's by Detrex Company. Trex Properties is a PRP for the site and has accepted legal responsibility for cleanup and monitoring of the site.

EPA was contacted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in 2016 after receiving a report that documented elevated TCE levels in soil gas at the former facility. The PRP, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or EGLE, and EPA collected numerous indoor air samples at the source building, located at 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW, and other nearby buildings to ensure that indoor air was not being impacted by the

contamination from the facility at levels that might affect human health. Results from the samples at 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW showed contamination levels well above EPA's human health benchmark. Results from other buildings were below this action level.

On June 14, 2016, an evacuation order was issued by the Kent County Health Department for 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW. To minimize the duration of the evacuation order at the source property, EPA directed the PRP to immediately install a sub-slab vapor mitigation system. The PRP installed a sub-slab depressurization system comprised of eight extraction wells installed below the basement slab. The PRP also installed numerous air purification units in the building to help filter the air. After this mitigation and follow up testing, the Kent County Health Department lifted their no-occupancy order on August 11, 2016.



On June 30, 2017, EPA and Trex Properties entered into an Administrative Order of Consent requiring Trex to investigate and cleanup the contamination at the site under EPA oversight. Trex is continuing regular indoor air sampling at 312 Ellsworth Ave. SW to ensure that indoor air levels of TCE do not become too high.

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