



CHILLUM PERC SITE



Fact Sheet #1, July 2003
Chillum, Prince George's County, Maryland
and Washington, D.C.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been investigating a gasoline release at the Chevron property in Chillum, Maryland since 2001. During the investigation, EPA also found a chemical called perchloroethylene (PCE or PERC) in the groundwater next to the Chevron property (*see box on page 2*). PERC is not a contaminant that is usually associated with gasoline, but it is often associated with the dry cleaning industry. There are several dry cleaning facilities that are located in Maryland immediately next to the Washington, D.C. border. EPA is continuing to investigate the source of PERC.

Progress of PERC Sampling Activities

In the summer of 2002, EPA began sampling soil, groundwater and indoor air to find out where the PERC is coming from. On May 28, 2002, EPA sent access letters to about 60 residents, the surrounding business and property owners, the company that manages the shopping center next to the Chevron gas station, and the owner of the apartment building property next to the intersection of Riggs and Eastern Roads. The letters requested permission to sample the property and explained that all results are shared with the property owner.

In December 2002, EPA collected 32 soil vapor samples at 25 different properties in the Lamont Riggs neighborhood. Six soil vapor samples were also collected in January and February 2003. In April, EPA sampled indoor air in four homes using SUMMA canisters. These four homes were chosen for SUMMA sampling because the soil vapor samples collected from beneath the basements exceeded screening levels in soil set by EPA.

A SUMMA canister is an airtight stainless steel container that draws air into it and

holds it until the laboratory takes the air out to analyze it.

Community Outreach

EPA held the first public meeting for the Chillum PERC Site on June 11, 2002. During the meeting, EPA explained its theory that PERC was moving along a leaking sanitary sewer line. EPA held two other meetings in July and September 2002 to keep residents informed and to ask homeowners for permission to sample their properties. EPA has also held several informal meetings to discuss the investigation at the site with community members.

What's Next?

The next phase of field activities will include additional indoor air, groundwater, and soil vapor sampling at public and private properties. Permanent groundwater and vapor monitoring wells will be installed to monitor variation of groundwater and soil vapor concentrations. EPA will continue to sample the area for the source(s) of the PERC. This work should begin Summer 2003.

Comments, Questions or Concerns? Contact EPA!

Call Vance Evans at 215-814-5526 or use this sheet to write your comments, tear it off and send it to the address below.

Vance Evans (3HS43), Community Involvement Coordinator,
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History of the Gasoline Release at the Chevron Chillum Gas Station

In October 1989, there was a reported release of an unknown amount of gasoline from a service station owned and operated by Chevron Products Company, located at 5801 Riggs Road in Chillum, Maryland, which is on the property line of Washington, D.C. Chevron operated this station from 1985 until 1993.

The release was initially addressed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). After many years of monitoring, the gasoline plume began to move into D.C., beneath a residential area of at least 400 properties. This was reported to the D.C. Department of Health in April 2001.

At the request of D.C. elected officials and citizens, EPA took the lead in overseeing the investigation's cleanup by Chevron. EPA's main role is to oversee Chevron's collection of groundwater, soil, and soil vapor samples to determine the extent of contamination.

During the investigation into the gasoline release, EPA discovered PERC contamination in groundwater samples taken from a location near the Chevron station. Although it is unclear as to where the PERC came from, PERC is a chemical often used in the dry cleaning industry. EPA will continue to investigate where the PERC is coming from. Because these sites are so close to each other, they may often be discussed together despite the fact that the contaminant sources may be unrelated.

What's Next?

EPA will also continue to find out the extent of the gasoline contamination. EPA completed a review of documents and work plans, prepared by the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) in the Chevron investigation, in June 2003.

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Chillum and Chevron Site Maps



EPA Update on Site Progress



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