



# CHILLUM PERC SITE

Fact Sheet #2, August 2003  
Chillum, Prince George's County, Maryland  
and Washington, D.C.



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

## EPA Sampling Program Continues

EPA started collecting samples from properties in the Lamont-Riggs neighborhood in late July 2003. To better understand what EPA is doing, this fact sheet identifies the different types of samples EPA is collecting and defines the methods used to collect and analyze these samples.

EPA is sampling for perchloroethylene, also known as PERC. PERC is often associated with the dry cleaning industry.

EPA will collect samples from:

**Soil vapor** - the air that exists in between soil particles.

**Groundwater** - the supply of fresh water found beneath the earth's surface in empty areas between rocks and soil particles.

**Indoor air** - air that is contained within a structure, like the air in a home.

**Ambient air** - Ambient air is outdoor air.

EPA uses different methods to collect soil vapor, groundwater, and air samples.

To collect soil vapor samples, EPA will insert a hollow tube down into the soil. Using a pump, air from the soil is sucked out through a tube into a collection bag. The bag is sealed and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

To collect groundwater samples, EPA must first be able to access the groundwater below the surface. To do this, EPA will install wells, called monitoring wells, in the ground. Once the wells are installed, groundwater can be collected much like the soil vapor by drawing it through a tube into a collection bag and taking it to the lab.

Indoor air will be sampled in two ways:

1. **Using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) Bus** - The TAGA Bus is a mobile laboratory that is used to test air as it is collected, in real time.
2. **Using SUMMA™ canisters** - The SUMMA™ canister is a stainless steel container that draws air into it over a

24-hour period. The canister has to be sent to a lab to take out the air and test it.

EPA will use the TAGA Bus to screen air inside homes for potential household chemical sources, such as rubbing alcohol, paint, gasoline cans, etc. Once EPA determines that there are no significant household sources left, EPA can place a SUMMA™ canister in the basement and first-floor areas of the homes and return the following day to pick it up. Individual sampling results will be shared with the property owners three months after all work is completed.

Ambient air was sampled with the TAGA Bus prior to indoor air sampling. SUMMA™ canisters were also used to collect ambient air samples over a 24-hour period.

As of mid-August, EPA has completed most of the sampling work. However, EPA still needs to collect a few more soil vapor samples and install and sample groundwater monitoring wells in the neighborhood.

**EPA will be in the community the week of August 18-22, 2003 to collect these additional samples.**

EPA will use fact sheets, public meetings and the Chillum PERC website to inform the community of its findings from the sampling program described in this fact sheet.



### AIR SAMPLES:

A SUMMA™ canister draws air into it over a 24-hour period.

## Chevron Gasoline Spill Update

The field work to investigate the Chevron Nicholson and Oglethorpe Streets where previous soil vapor sampling has not yet occurred. The activities include soil vapor sampling next to the foundation wall, and sump/groundwater Installation of about 16 permanent groundwater and soil vapor wells is also planned for mid-sampling in about 13 duplex locations on December.

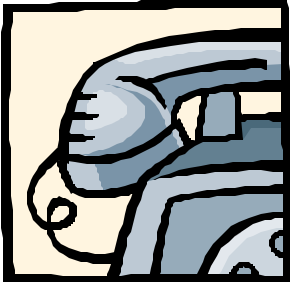
### TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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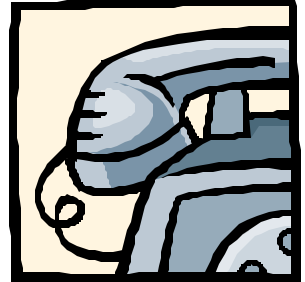


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## EPA Update on Site Progress



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