



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Assessment Information Sheet
Wescott Plantation Methane Assessment
Summerville, South Carolina

No. 3

June 30, 2007

On June 15, 2007, the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) requested that EPA perform an assessment to determine if methane exceeded the established LEL (lower explosive limit) in select homes at Wescott Plantation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) began the onsite assessment on June 27, 2007. EPA conducted air monitoring using instruments that provided real-time data. EPA coordinated the assessment with SCDHEC, the City of North Charleston, the local fire department and Wescott Plantation residents. Methane at all of the 19 homes monitored was significantly below the LEL. The completed site evaluation report will be available within 60 to 90 days.

Methane is a flammable gas and simple asphyxiant that is lighter than air. There are no health effects known to result from exposure to methane below concentrations that result in explosive levels. Therefore, when evaluating methane levels in the environment, responders look for explosive hazards first. If you have questions concerning the health effects of methane, please call 1-800-CDC-Info.

If you have questions or comments about the assessment, please contact us at the numbers listed below:

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