

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Euclid Road Groundwater Site, Deep Creek, WA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

March 2007

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been testing private domestic wells in the Deep Creek area of Reardan since 2005. Results from the December 2006 tests are now available. The tests show that water from Deep Creek area wells does not pose an immediate threat to human health.

December tests

In December 2006, EPA's contractors took 42 samples from home drinking water wells in the investigation area. EPA looked for three chemicals: trichloethylene (TCE), perchlorate and N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA).

During this round of testing, TCE and NDMA were not detected in any of the newly sampled drinking water wells. However, nearly every well tested in December had very low levels of perchlorate, which is consistent with the levels found in the entire investigation area.

Why are we testing well water?

Testing began after TCE was discovered in a home drinking water well near the former Fairchild Nike Missile Battery 87. Since testing began, only three wells have been found to have TCE above the federal drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion (ppb). EPA installed treatment systems on these wells to remove the TCE and provide safe water to the affected homes.

To date, EPA has taken a total of 212 samples from 134 wells in the 35 square-mile investigation area around the Deep Creek community. In addition to testing home drinking water wells, EPA also tests four monitoring wells that were installed to monitor the TCE levels in the shallow groundwater.

NDMA

NDMA has been found at rocket fuel facilities and also has been found where chlorinated waste water has been spread on land. It is in some foods such as cured meat. There is no federal drinking water standard for NDMA.

Some Deep Creek wells tested in 2006 had low levels of NDMA but none of the wells tested in December had NDMA. No filtering or treatment of drinking water in the Deep Creek area is necessary because there is little or no NDMA in those wells.

TCE

TCE is a commonly used degreaser and is also an ingredient in many products such as paint removers and adhesives. Since testing began in 2005, TCE levels in the drinking water and monitoring wells have dropped. EPA is working with other agencies to understand what is affecting the levels of TCE in well water.

The federal drinking water standard for TCE is five parts per billion. When drinking water has more than five parts of TCE per billion parts of water, the water generally is treated to remove the TCE. EPA has installed filters on each of the three wells that had more TCE than the drinking water standard allows.

PERCHLORATE

Perchlorate is a manufactured salt found in rocket fuels, explosives, flares, fireworks, some bleach products, and some herbicides. It also occurs naturally in arid environments and has been found in natural fertilizers imported from Chile. It has been detected in drinking water in the Deep Creek area.

While there is no federal drinking water standard for perchlorate, the levels of perchlorate are so low that neither EPA nor the Department of Health recommends filtering or otherwise treating drinking water for perchlorate.

continued



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

*Euclid Road Groundwater Site
Deep Creek, WA
March 2007*



If you need materials in an alternative format, please call Marianne Deppman. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

What are the next steps?

- *Continued monitoring for TCE*

EPA will continue to monitor the TCE contamination by sampling the monitoring wells, the drinking water wells known to have TCE, and the drinking water wells nearby. EPA will also continue to monitor the performance of the drinking water treatment systems that were installed at three homes with high TCE levels.

- *Availability of test results*

EPA is preparing a map to show all the test results since 2005. You will be able to find that map on the EPA website and at the Airway Heights Public Library by late March. EPA is working with state and local agencies to determine next steps for this investigation. You will receive fact sheet describing a plan in May. If there is enough interest, EPA will host a public meeting.

- *Cooperation with US Army Corps of Engineers*

EPA continues to share information with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about EPA's search for the source of TCE, perchlorate and NDMA. The Corps has begun an effort to review all information regarding military and other site activities that could have resulted in TCE perchlorate, and NDMA being found in the ground/drinking water. The Corps anticipates that its contractor will complete its investigation and preliminary report by the end of March. The Corps will then review this preliminary product to determine what further investigation efforts may be warranted, if any. Results are expected to be publicly available this summer. For more information about the Army Corps formerly used defense site program, please visit:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=PMEM&pagename=FUDS>

For More Information, contact:

For general information or to be added to the mailing lists shared by EPA, Washington Dept. of Health, and Spokane Regional Health District:

Marianne Deppman

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
800-424-4372 or 206-553-1237
deppman.marianne@epa.gov

For questions about having your well tested:

Calvin Terada

EPA On Scene Coordinator
206-553-4141
terada.calvin@epa.gov

Visit EPA's website: ***<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/euclid>***

For questions about TCE, perchlorate, NDMA and health:

Mike LaScuola

Spokane Regional Health District, 509-324-1574
mlascuola@spokanecounty.org

Barbara Trejo

Washington Department of Health
877-485-7316, Barbara.trejo@doh.wa.gov

The Administrative Record (important site documents) can be reviewed at:

Airway Heights Libraray
1213 S. Lundstrom St.
Airway Heights, WA 99001
509-893-8250

EPA Records Center, 7th Flr
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
800-424-4372

Please call the library and Records Center for hours and appointments.