



# Lenape Manufacturing Site

Perkasie, Bucks County, PA

## Investigation Begins --EPA Looks for Vapors in Soil --

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

October 26, 2009

### EPA to Begin Vapor Intrusion Assessment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be collecting sub-slab soil-gas, indoor air and ambient air samples in the Perkasie area. Due to past industrial activities in the area and known groundwater contamination, EPA is testing for possible trichloroethylene (TCE) vapor intrusion, that is often found in connection with contaminated groundwater. The testing will help find out:

- If TCE vapors exist in soil-gas, ambient air and/or indoor air,
- and if so, where, how much, and at what concentrations do the TCE vapors exist, And most importantly,..
- If there is a potential risk to human health and the environment.

EPA will be talking with residential property owners in the area to request permission to collect samples from various locations. EPA will use historical groundwater data as a basis for selecting sampling locations. Participation in the assessment is voluntary and at no cost to home owners. EPA will not collect samples from private property without permission from the property owner(s).



Map 1: Circled Area = General Area of Vapor Intrusion Assessment. Map not to scale.

### What You May Notice

Workers will be taking notes, photographs and samples. They may be wearing some of the protective gear listed below:

- plastic coveralls, booties and gloves,
- breathing masks,
- hard hats, and
- safety goggles.

Certain protective gear is required for environmental workers due to the nature of their job duties. It will not be necessary for nearby residents to wear similar equipment.

### Work Schedule

Samples will be collected over a period of three to four days, pending weather conditions. Samples will then be sent for lab analysis, which can take up to six weeks before results are completed and confirmed. Once the lab results are in, EPA will:

- ✓ Provide a copy of the results to the property owner,
- ✓ Determine if any further action (such as more testing or installing a remedy) is necessary, and
- ✓ Provide the community an update of the findings.

## What is TCE?

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a nonflammable, colorless liquid used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. It is also used in dry cleaning methods and has been added to some products such as adhesives, typewriter correction fluids and spot removers.

TCE can enter the body by:

- Breathing in TCE-contaminated vapors, (which can be a result of contaminated soil or water),
- Drinking, swimming or showering in TCE-contaminated water, or
- Skin contact during manufacturing TCE products or using them at work to wash paint or grease from skin or equipment.

Long-term exposure to TCE-contaminated vapors could pose a potential risk to human health. Possible health effects are nerve, kidney or liver damage. Also, some studies have shown TCE to cause cancer to these organs.

During this investigation, EPA will work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR is a federal health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Photo 1 Summa Canister: A canister about the size of a basketball that collects air slowly over a 24-hour period of time.



## Next Steps...

First, EPA will contact approximately 20 residents to request permission to enter their property, in order to collect samples.

Next, workers will be in the area collecting sub-slab soil-gas samples, which may be followed by ambient air and/or indoor air samples, depending on sub-slab sampling results. (See Photo 1 for an example of the equipment that may be used). Samples will be sent to a lab for analysis.

EPA will keep the community updated as the investigation progresses using fact sheets, like this one.

## Background...

- ❖ Lenape Manufacturing is a former metal fabrication and machining company, located in Perkasio, PA.
- ❖ Due to former operations, contamination was found in the groundwater located underneath the site.
- ❖ The property owner conducted a cleanup at the site, in accordance to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requirements, which included providing treatment units to residential wells. Recently, PADEP has provided a more permanent solution by connecting those residents to a public water supply.
- ❖ EPA is investigating the possibility of TCE-contaminated vapor intrusion, in association with the known contaminated groundwater.

### **For More Information, please contact:**

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