



Fair Lawn Well Field Superfund Site Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study EPA CONDUCTING SOIL GAS TESTING

Community Update

August 2013

What is Vapor Intrusion?

When chemicals or petroleum are spilled on the ground or leak from underground storage tanks, they can give off gases or vapors that can get inside a building. Common products that can cause vapor intrusion are gasoline or diesel fuel, dry cleaning solvents, paint thinners and industrial de-greasers. These vapors move through the soil and seep through cracks in basements and foundations.

What are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)?

VOCs are chemicals found in paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, varnishes and waxes, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment, moth repellents, air fresheners, and dry-cleaned clothing. VOCs evaporate into the air when these products are used or sometimes even when they are stored. VOCs are released from products during use and while stored.

SITE REPOSITORY

Site-related documents are available for review at the following information repository locations:

U.S. EPA Records Center, Region II
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, New York, 10007-1866
(212) 637-3261

Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library
10-01 Fair Lawn Avenue
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
(201) 796-3400

EPA TO CONDUCT SOIL GAS TESTING

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be performing sub-slab air sampling for the Fair Lawn Well Field Superfund Site. Historic operations conducted at facilities within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park have resulted in the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the soils and ground water at the Site. The purpose of this sampling is to determine whether vapors from underlying ground water contaminated with VOCs is accumulating under the slab of homes and the nearby Westmoreland Elementary School. This information is necessary because ground water investigation activities have not yet been completed. The installation of sub-slab ports and collection of sub-slab air samples will take place during the month of August and September 2013.

WHY IS MORE SAMPLING BEING DONE?

During a meeting with the community in October 2012, local officials and concerned residents urged EPA to conduct vapor intrusion sampling in the vicinity of the Westmoreland Well field. Since the existing ground water investigation data was not conclusive to sufficiently determine the potential for vapor intrusion in and around the area of the Westmoreland well field wells and to address community concerns, EPA has decided to collect vapor intrusion samples. EPA is expanding the sampling to additional properties which includes the Westmoreland Elementary School that lies within the well field area to determine if VOCs may be present.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

EPA added the Fair Lawn Well Field Site to the National Priorities List in September 1983 due to the fact that contaminants were found at three municipal wells. These wells are part of the Westmoreland Well Field which supplies drinking water to residents of Fair Lawn located in Bergen County, New Jersey. In March 1984, Fisher Scientific Company and Sandvik, Inc. signed Administrative Order on Consents (AOCs) with the NJDEP to conduct on-site investigation of soil and ground water. In 1986, Fisher Scientific's parent company, Allied Signal, signed an AOC with the NJDEP for the continuation of remedial activities, including construction of a ground water collection system on their property.

STATUS UPDATE - VAPOR INTRUSION STUDY

Access request letters for vapor intrusion testing were sent to 17 residential and 6 commercial property owners in March 2009. Nine residential and three commercial property owners agreed to allow access to collect sub-slab samples from beneath their buildings.

Samples were collected between March and June 2009. Residential sample results indicated that tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations were below the EPA-screening criteria except for one property where PCE was found to be slightly above the current screening criterion. Commercial results indicated that PCE and TCE concentrations levels were above the current screening criteria.

For more information, please call:

Wanda Ayala, Community Involvement Coordinator at (212) 637-3676 or toll free at (800) 346-5009 ayala.wanda@epa.gov

If you would like information on the Fair Lawn Well Field Site, please call:

Michael Zeolla, Remedial Project Manager at (212) 637-4376
zeolla.michael@epa.gov

How will I get the results of the testing?

EPA will provide a fact sheet summarizing the result of the testing by late Summer 2013. Results will be made available to the community through a variety of methods. EPA is available to answer questions now through the contacts listed here and will be on hand to explain the sampling results when they come in later this summer.

If you would like information on other environmental concerns or the Superfund hazardous waste program, please contact:

George Zachos
EPA Regional Public Liaison
Office: 732-321-6621
Toll Free: 888-283-7626
zachos.george@epa.gov

STATUS UPDATE - VAPOR INTRUSION STUDY- CONT'D

To confirm the results from the 2009 sampling event, a second round of vapor intrusion testing was conducted.

Based on the results from vapor intrusion testing in 2009 and 2010, EPA has determined that the levels of VOCs found in the residential sub-slab and indoor air samples collected are below current EPA screening criteria.

Additional vapor intrusion investigation activities are continuing for the commercial properties located within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park. Sampling results indicate that PCE and TCE concentration levels were above current EPA screening criteria.

STATUS UPDATE

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER INVESTIGATION

The Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) under the oversight of the EPA are currently conducting remedial investigation activities to determine the nature and extent of the ground water contaminated with VOCs at the Fair Lawn Well Field Site. From August to December 2009, five bedrock and four shallow ground water wells were installed in the site investigation area. Geophysical data from these new wells were collected in January 2010 and ground water and surface water samples were collected in June 2010 and March 2011. The information collected will be used to determine the nature and extent of the ground water and surface water contamination and determine whether additional investigation activities are necessary. This information will be summarized in a Site Characterization Report (SCR) currently being revised by the PRPs to address comments from EPA.

In May 2013, the PRPs submitted a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) work plan addendum to conduct additional investigation activities. This work plan addendum is currently under EPA review.

NEXT STEPS

EPA will approve a final Site Characterization Report. The PRPs will conduct the additional ground water investigation activities. This new data collected will be incorporated with the existing data. Once all of the investigation activities are completed, a RI/FS report will be prepared. When the RI/FS is completed, EPA will issue a Proposed Plan. This plan will propose a remedy for cleaning up the contamination at the Site and the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on this plan during the Public Comment Period. EPA will hold public meetings during this process.