

Southeastern Edwardstown Community Working Group

Tuesday 10 May 2016, 7:00 – 8:00pm

Active Elders Hall, 27a Charles Street Ascot Park

Attendees

| Name | Representation | Name | Representation |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Andrew Pruszinski | EPA | Mansoor | Resident |
| Mitch Talbot | EPA | Pam Webb | Resident |
| Dale McGill | EPA | Chris Manias | Resident |
| Rachel Hudson | EPA | Mary Manias | Resident |
| Dr Ian Delaere | SA Health | | |

Meeting notes

Welcome and introductions

Rachel Hudson
Principal Adviser, Community Engagement

Welcome and thank you to Dr Ian Delaere, Manager Toxicology from SA Health's Scientific Services Branch, for making himself available to attend the meeting.

Review of last meeting notes

Rachel Hudson presented a summary of the last meeting notes, which reported on the findings of the environmental assessment program.

Design and scope of new works

Dale McGill
A/ Principal Adviser, Site Contamination

- Twenty groundwater bores and twenty soil vapour testing bores are in the process of being installed in Edwardstown and Ascot Park.

- Bores are being installed in the west of the assessment area across train line, and in the north east to more accurately define the potential source of contamination.
- Bore installation is commencing this week and continuing through until late May 2016. The next report, including data, an updated conceptual site model and revised risk assessment is expected in late June 2016.

SA Health advice

Dr Ian Delaere
Manager – Toxicology, Scientific Services Branch

- SA Health recommends reducing exposure to groundwater, ie flushing, washing, watering or other exposure you don't need to have. With the historical dumping of industrial waste, and then residential properties encroaching on former industrial land, the situation triggered a level of work to understand this issue.
- The science behind it is still evolving.
- SA Health has conducted research into vapour intrusion and has identified parameters important to controlling personal exposures to TCE from vapour intrusion..

Questions and answers – SA Health

What do the TCE predictions mean for pregnant women both working or living in Southeast Edwardstown (at the locations where the predictions are highest?).

- Ian provided an introduction to the history of TCE guideline setting in South Australia, how guideline were derived at a local national and international level, why guidelines change over time and what they mean.
- The scientific community is relatively comfortable that at the 2-20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ range for TCE you should pay attention to these chemicals and their exposures.
- In the event that people are being exposed to TCE we are encouraging people to have less exposure.
- Practical actions may include partially opening of windows. It may also be helpful to open internal doors as this improves airflow within a house
- Managing exposure to remain below 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ will be protective to all members of community.

So according to the SA Health fact sheet, the levels of TCE found in Southeast Edwardstown are negligible?

- That is correct if exposures remain below 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

What about watering my veggies?

- Groundwater is much deeper than the shallow roots of vegetables. Groundwater in the assessment area should not be used for any purpose until further notice is given from the EPA. That is do not water trees, grass or vegetables with groundwater.
- There was an example of a walnut tree in Edwardstown – where roots were likely to be going down into the groundwater. The EPA sent off the nuts to a specialist laboratory that could measure this and the walnuts had no trace of TCE in them.

Why isn't the oval being tested?

- The oval (Raglan Avenue, Edwardstown) is not being tested as part of these assessment works as it is considered to be too far north to be impacted by the contamination arising from the South Eastern Edwardstown EPA assessment area.

Why do you go out to tender at each stage of the works?

- The assessment process is complex and expensive, and State Government procurement processes require the thorough, transparent and fair evaluation of tenders. Selection is based on many factors and the EPA is required to approach a minimum of three companies for quotes at each stage of works.

What sort of research has been going on?

- There is a lot of research occurring. However at there has been limited (international) success in the remediation of TCE in groundwater to date. The EPA is a shareholder in CRC CARE: <http://www.crccare.com/>

Can you pump the groundwater to remove contaminants?

- Yes but it has limited impact. That is the pump can only draw contaminants from around it so with a large plume thousands of pumps and treatment systems are required. In addition the pump will only remove chemicals that are in the water. It will not remove the chemicals that have become attached to the soil

What is Germany doing to tackle contamination?

- Andrew to present at the next meeting.

Next meeting proposed for Tuesday 12 July 2016

Further information***For further information on site contamination please contact:***

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Site Contamination Branch | Telephone: | (08) 8204 2004 |
| Environment Protection Authority | Freecall (country): | 1800 729 175 |
| GPO Box 2607 | Website: | www.epa.sa.gov.au |
| Adelaide SA 5001 | Email: | EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au |

For health related information on site contamination please contact:

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| Scientific Services Branch, | Telephone: | (08) 8226 7100 |
| Public Health Services, SA Health | Website: | www.sahealth.sa.gov.au |
| 11 Hindmarsh Square | Email: | public.health@health.sa.gov.au |
| Adelaide SA 5000 | | |
