

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Results from indoor air testing at Clovelly Park

Friday 18 January 2013

Six households at Clovelly Park were yesterday advised of the results of indoor air sampling conducted in December 2012.

The testing, carried out by Monroe Australia Pty Ltd (Monroe), has returned levels for trichloroethylene (TCE) above the new USA EPA Reference Concentration of 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at three properties. No vinyl chloride was identified during the indoor air sampling.

EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan said there is no immediate risk to the residents of these properties; however, follow-up testing at the six properties will be undertaken on 1 February 2013 to confirm the results.

“Monroe and their site contamination consultant URS yesterday doorknocked the six residential properties where the indoor air sampling was undertaken to inform those residents of the results of the testing and advise the next steps.

“The properties included in the indoor air sampling investigation area were selected based on soil vapour assessment data from October 2012.

“The residents were provided with information on TCE, as well as the contact details for the EPA and SA Health, and were advised to call if they had any further concerns.” said Mr Dolan.

SA Health’s Public Health Director, Dr Kevin Buckett, said the US EPA Reference Concentration level recommends further investigation at levels above of 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

“Exposure to TCE at low levels often occurs in the general community, for example it is found in some household products such as typewriter correction fluid and paint or spot removers,” Dr Buckett said.

“The TCE at the levels seen here do not indicate a health risk to residents, however, in line with the US EPA’s recommendation, it’s prudent to investigate concentration levels above 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to mitigate or rule out any risk of long term exposure.”

In addition to the testing of the six properties, a further 43 homes in the wider consultation area were also doorknocked today and advised that further work in the area would be undertaken.

This involved an offer of soil vapour testing at their properties, which will form part of the Monroe consultant’s work to determine the extent of the soil vapour plume.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394

Monroe has engaged a site contamination consultant to undertake all assessment work both on and off the Monroe property. Since 2009, Monroe has engaged an EPA accredited site contamination auditor to independently review the work undertaken by the consultant.

The solvents that are the cause of the contamination were used in many industries over a long period of time, including cleaning metal parts and plastics.

In November 2008, the EPA and SA Health advised residents not to use bore water for any purpose after traces of the chemicals TCE and vinyl chloride were found in groundwater off the Monroe and former Mitsubishi properties.

“This is an historic site for which there is no quick fix. Monroe is fully cooperating with the EPA and undertaking all necessary steps to deal with the situation as quickly and effectively as possible and to keep residents and the EPA fully informed.” said Mr Dolan.

“The results of the follow-up indoor air sampling are expected to be received in late February/early March.

“Monroe’s consultant will provide the results to the independent auditor for review, which will then be discussed with the EPA and SA Health to determine the next steps that may be required.”

For further information, frequently asked questions are available on the EPA website or the EPA can be contacted on 1800 729 175 on weekdays between 8 am to 8 pm.

This also confirms the EPA’s advice that bore owners should not use bore water unless it is regularly tested to ensure it is fit for purpose.