

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Update on environmental testing at Hendon

Residents and property owners in Hendon have been informed that further testing of known groundwater and soil-vapour contamination near the Hendon industrial area will commence in early December.

The testing work, which has been commissioned by a third party in consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), aims to better understand the extent of soil-vapour contamination resulting from historic industrial activities.

The EPA is currently informing residents and businesses in the assessment area of the next stage of the testing program via letter-box drop and reminding them that earlier advice not to use groundwater remains in place.

The EPA informed 3000 residents and other property owners in Hendon, Royal Park and Seaton in May 2012 of the existence of chemicals in groundwater including trichloroethene (TCE), an industrial solvent historically used in manufacturing, metal degreasing and dry-cleaning sectors.

Testing undertaken in March and April this year indicated the TCE contamination levels associated with indoor vapour intrusion were acceptable, but further testing was recommended.

The EPA's Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan, said the EPA has been in discussion with a number of companies that may have contributed to contamination in the area.

One of the industries has agreed to engage consultants to conduct drilling and soil-vapour sampling in the residential area immediately north of the industrial area.

"This next round of testing covers an area of approximately 130 properties and will provide a better understanding of the extent and possible sources of contamination," Mr Dolan said.

The work will involve drilling bores and collecting soil-vapour samples. Testing will primarily be undertaken on public land such as footpaths and nature strips.

Further information on the Hendon Assessment Area can be viewed on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au).

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