

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Update on environmental testing at Keswick

Further testing of groundwater and soil vapour near a former industrial site at Keswick will be undertaken in November and December 2014.

The testing work, which has been commissioned by former site owner and refrigerator manufacturer, Kelvinator, in consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), aims to better understand the extent of contamination near its former Everard Avenue site.

The EPA informed 23 Keswick landholders with a registered bore in December 2013 of the existence of chemicals in groundwater, including trichloroethene (TCE), and advised them that groundwater should not be used for any purpose. TCE is an industrial solvent historically used as a metal degreaser.

In February this year, the EPA approached Kelvinator to undertake investigations, which it agreed to.

In April 2014, the EPA informed 1,460 residents and landholders in the Keswick area that a site contamination consultant had been engaged to assess the extent of contamination originating from the former industrial site.

That work assessed the presence of TCE in shallow soils and at the ground surface within and around the former Kelvinator site.

The EPA's Operations Director for Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan, says TCE vapour was detected at concentrations that prompted further vapour assessment at adjacent commercial properties.

"Kelvinator is currently writing to Keswick landholders to update them on the next stage of the testing program and remind them that the advice not to use groundwater remains in place," Mr Dolan said.

Drilling and sampling work will primarily be undertaken on public land such as footpaths and nature strips and may take up to four weeks.

The testing will focus on commercial properties that were historically owned by Kelvinator and public land along Day Avenue, the eastern end of Everard Avenue (between Kent Road and Anzac Highway) and the southern end of Ashford Road.

The testing results will enable Kelvinator to carry out a health risk assessment, the results of which will be communicated to affected landholders by Kelvinator, in consultation with the EPA. Further information on the Keswick notification area can be viewed on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au).

For further information please contact Ros Agate on 0434 609 394