

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Beverley environmental tests results

The EPA is assessing preliminary results from groundwater and soil vapour testing undertaken in April and May 2015 in Beverley, as part of an ongoing investigation into site contamination caused by previous industrial activities.

Environmental testing has confirmed the presence of the chemical *Trichloroethene* (TCE) in a number of locations within the assessment area.

The groundwater contamination is at lower levels than previous testing has shown, however recent soil vapour data has returned readings that are higher than expected.

More thorough analysis of the data will now be carried out to determine any potential health risks, and the EPA will commence further assessment work to better understand the environmental conditions in the area.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said additional groundwater and soil vapour testing will take place over the next few weeks.

“Residents in the Beverley area will see activity from contractors in the next few weeks who will be drilling a series of small, shallow bore holes to determine whether any further work or remedial action will be required,” Mr Dolan said.

“This work will include the resampling of existing soil vapour bores and some new bores with the interim results from vapour intrusion and human health risk assessments expected to be compiled by the end of next month and presented in an interim report in July.”

Residents and property owners were advised late last year and earlier this year of the assessment works and community information sessions were held.

The EPA will continue to ensure the community and key stakeholders have access to information and an avenue to raise questions or concerns.

The EPA will also gauge interest from the community in forming a community working group.

In the meantime, the EPA continues to review all available information to determine parties that may be responsible for the cause of the contamination from past poor industrial practices.

The report from the most recent groundwater and soil vapour data is available on the EPA website, with further information from the next round of tests to be provided to local residents in the coming weeks following analysis of the new data.

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641

Residents and commercial property owners have previously been advised not to use groundwater for any purpose until further notice. This advice remains in place.

Mains water supplied by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks is not affected by this contamination issue.

NOTE: *Peter Dolan will be available for interview at EPA HQ (SA Water building, 250 Victoria Square, Adelaide) at 3PM today (Friday 29 May, 2015). Report to Concierge in foyer, sign-in and wait to be escorted to media room on L8. Please contact Chris Metevelis on 0439 137 641 to confirm attendance.*