

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA narrows its environmental tests in Beverley

The EPA has narrowed the focus of ongoing environmental testing in the Beverley area to less than 35 properties after evaluating its most recent groundwater and soil vapour data.

Initial testing earlier this year confirmed the presence of the chemical *Trichloroethene* (TCE) in a number of locations within the assessment area.

Groundwater contamination was found to be at lower concentrations than previous tests had shown whereas soil vapour data returned higher than expected readings, which prompted further testing.

The EPA began its environmental assessment program in July, to the east and west of Pope Street Beverley, involving a combination of soil, groundwater and soil vapour testing to determine the nature and extent of TCE contamination in this area.

The scope of works was recently increased to include testing at a number of residential and commercial properties to more accurately understand any potential long-term health impacts and to better inform the next stages of assessment work.

The current testing area comprised a total of 42 properties (36 residential and 6 commercial) but the focus has now been narrowed to less than 35 properties.

During this process the EPA has kept residents regularly informed including through letters, emails, a community working group and personal visits.

Samples collected from recent laboratory analysis from new and existing soil vapour bores on public land and from testing on a number of private properties are in the process of being analyzed and assessed.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said the results of these tests will be known within the next few weeks but in the meantime the residents of four properties have been offered short-term temporary accommodation should they wish to accept it.

"The environmental consultants who are conducting these tests have advised the EPA that based on preliminary results beneath the concrete slabs, it is possible for elevated indoor concentrations of TCE to exist within these four homes," Mr Dolan said.

"We have discussed these preliminary results with health experts and have offered temporary relocation for these residents as a precaution while any health risks are better understood through further testing," he said.

"The residents of all four properties are satisfied with the progress of the environmental tests and have declined an offer of temporary accommodation while this work continues."

The EPA will continue to work closely with local residents and advise them when the latest report is made available later this month.

NOTE: Peter Dolan will be available to the media in the foyer of SA Water House - 250 Victoria Square at 2pm today

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641