

# South eastern Edwardstown

## Environmental assessment program – November 2015

### What is the environmental assessment program?

The environmental assessment program will assist the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in understanding the nature and extent of contamination in the area originating from two industrial properties bordered by Arabrie and Erudina Avenues, Edwardstown. Contamination on these properties occurred historically when trichloroethene (TCE) was used in manufacturing industries as a metal cleaner and degreaser.

### Why are the EPA doing these works?

The EPA is working on an ongoing basis with the previous users of the properties to determine the appropriate next steps. While these discussions are continuing, the EPA has decided to deliver a program of assessment works to provide clarity to the community about the environmental conditions of the area.

### What work has been undertaken in the area previously?

Previous testing programs on these industrial sites undertaken by the owner has identified contamination in the soil and groundwater. Based on this information, the EPA commenced an assessment program in April 2015 to understand the nature and extent of potential contamination in the wider area.

### What were the results of the most recent round of assessment?

Previous assessment data has shown evidence of the chemicals trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) in groundwater and soil vapour at several locations within the assessment area, however the full extent of the site contamination in the area has not yet been determined. Further assessment work is required across an expanded assessment area, to find the full extent of the site contamination, and to complete a vapour intrusion and human health risk assessment for the area.

### What does the assessment process involve?

There are several stages to the assessment process, outlined in the diagram below:



### What work needs to be done?

The assessment works require the re-sampling of existing soil vapour bores to validate the previous results and allow for potential seasonal variations. A number of additional soil vapour bores will also be installed on public and industrial land within the expanded assessment area. Some work may also be required on private property, however this will be discussed with property owners in the first instance and not proceed without signed consent.



*Small caps are placed over permanent sampling locations*

The planned assessment works will include installation of approximately:

- 44 passive, temporary soil vapour bores up to 1 metre in depth,
- 28 active, permanent soil vapour bores, between 1 and 1.7 metres deep,
- temporary soil vapour sampling equipment beneath the concrete slab or floorboards of up to 8 properties in the area.

Consultants will also be visiting some properties within the assessment area to gather information about housing construction types. This information is used to inform the risk assessment and analysis of results. All work will be delivered by specialist site contamination consultants, Fyfe Earth Partners.

### **What will I see in my street?**

Work to install the different types of bores will happen over 2 to 3 weeks. Different teams install the different types of bores, so you may see people coming and going from your street intermittently during this time.

The soil vapour bores will be installed using smaller 4WD vehicles with drills mounted on the back. You can expect to see small teams of 2 to 3 people drilling each bore. Team members will be wearing standard safety equipment including high visibility clothing, steel cap boots, safety glasses and gloves.



*A soil vapour bore being drilled on a road verge*

Sampling will occur a few weeks later, once the bores have settled. It usually takes between 2 and 4 hours to collect each sample and the work will be completed by small teams of 1 or 2 people. There may be some local traffic management in place when teams are working in the street, however streets will remain open for local access.

### **Will I be able to see the results?**

Yes, all results will be made available to the public on the EPA website and the EPA Public Register. The EPA expects final reporting to be completed in early March 2016.

The results will be published as a full report and include a vapour intrusion and human health risk assessment. The full report is prepared by the specialist environmental consultant and provided to the EPA as the regulator for consideration and determination of next steps. Residents in the assessment area will be notified when the full report and risk assessment is available. Residents will be provided with a written summary of the main findings along with information about how to access the reports online.

### **Can I drink water and grow fruit and vegetables?**

Mains water provided by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks is not affected by this issue and is safe to use as normal. Previous advice to residents from the EPA to not use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose remains in place until further notice. SA Health has advised that home grown fruit and vegetables are safe, provided they are not watered using contaminated groundwater.

### **More information**

If you would like more information about the environmental assessment program please contact the EPA Stakeholder Engagement Team on 1800 729 175 or at [EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au).