

EPA 05/21599; 61344

Dear Resident,

RE: Beverley environmental assessment program – January 2016

Between April and October 2015, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) undertook a comprehensive environmental assessment program at Beverley. The EPA completed this work on behalf of the Government as it is not yet clear who caused this contamination.

The assessment program involved the drilling, sampling and testing of groundwater and soil vapour at a number of locations within the assessment area. Soil vapour samples were also collected from beneath the concrete slab and/or floorboards of selected homes within the area, with indoor air sampling also undertaken at some of these homes.

The presence of the chemical substance Trichloroethene (TCE) was found in many of the soil vapour and groundwater samples collected. Further assessment work is now required to confirm these results, better understand the extent of the contamination and determine how to effectively manage any potential health risks if required.

Next stage of environmental assessment work

The next stage of assessment work at Beverley will be divided into two separate programs: the broader area work and the validation work.

The majority of the broader area work will be completed on public land and involve the re-sampling of all existing groundwater and soil vapour bores. New groundwater wells and soil vapour bores will also be installed across a slightly expanded assessment area to better understand the extent of the contamination.

The EPA has appointed a site contamination consultant to undertake these works which are expected to commence within the next two weeks. The work will occur intermittently over the course of about six weeks, beginning with the preparation and installation of the new groundwater wells and soil vapour bores. Sampling of the new and existing locations will occur a few weeks later. During this time you may notice small teams of people in local streets undertaking the various stages of this work.

The validation work is slightly more complex and will involve testing for vapour in yards, beneath homes and within the air inside homes at a number of residential properties within the assessment area. The testing locations for this work have been determined from the October 2015 results.

The validation work will be undertaken by a site contamination consultant who will be engaged by the EPA shortly. All residents and property owners at locations for which site specific testing is required will be contacted by the EPA in the coming days to discuss the scope of work required at their property.

Results

Given the complexity of the program, results are not expected to be available until June 2016. The EPA will provide you with a written summary of the results once they become available and all reports will be accessible via the EPA website. All properties at which site specific testing occurs will receive specific information relevant to their property, including copies of all reports that reference that information.

Further information

As per previous advice provided by the EPA, residents and commercial/industrial property owners should not use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose until further notice. Mains water provided by SA Water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue. Home grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided they are not watered using the groundwater.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment program, please contact the EPA Stakeholder Engagement Team on 1800 729 175 or via email at EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



TIM SAUL
MANAGER STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Date: 12 January 2016