

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority

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Next phase of environmental tests at Beverley

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will soon begin the next stage of environmental assessment tests at Beverley.

This follows work that was undertaken at various locations in the assessment area between April and October 2015, involving the sampling of groundwater and soil vapour on road verges and public space land.

The work included sampling soil vapour beneath concrete slabs, crawl spaces and indoor air from selected homes.

EPA Director Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan said the next stage will involve two separate programs - the broader area and validation work.

“The presence of the chemical substance Trichloroethene or TCE, has been found in the soil vapour and groundwater samples collected, with more testing needed to help us confirm the results and to work towards identifying the source of this contamination,” he said.

“Most of the broader area work will be completed on public land and involve drilling new groundwater wells and soil vapour bores in an expanded assessment area and the re-sampling of all existing groundwater and soil vapour bores.”

The validation work will be done by a site contamination consultant appointed by the EPA.

“This work is slightly more complex and will involve testing for vapour in yards, underneath homes and inside a number of residential properties within the assessment area which was determined from the October 2015 results,” Mr Dolan said.

“This additional assessment work is expected to start within the next two weeks and occur intermittently over a six week period, which will give us a better understanding of the extent of the contamination and how to best manage any potential health risks,” he said.

“Work will begin with the preparation and installation of the new groundwater wells and soil vapour bores with sampling of the new and existing locations to take place a few weeks later.”

Local residents and all property owners have been informed of the forthcoming environmental assessment program at Beverley and will be provided more detailed information next week.

A Beverley Community Working Group has been established and residents interested in participating are encouraged to contact the EPA on 1800 729 175.

Residents have also been reminded again not to use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose until further notice.

The results of the next round of environmental tests at Beverley are expected to be available through the EPA website by June 2016.

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641