



Government of South Australia

SA Health

Public Health

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To the householder

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Re: Groundwater contamination – Allenby Gardens, Beverley, Woodville South, Woodville West and Findon

Groundwater testing at various sites within the suburbs of Allenby Gardens, Beverley, Woodville South, Woodville West and Findon has identified the presence of a hazardous hydrocarbon, trichloroethene (TCE) - an industrial chemical used widely as a metal cleaner and degreaser. The levels measured in some bores significantly exceeded the World Health Organization Drinking Water Guideline value.

The Department of Health in collaboration with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) conducted an investigation in order to define the extent of the contamination, determine the risk to public health and identify the source of contamination.

The investigation concluded that:

- The groundwater contamination extends across a portion of Allenby Gardens, Beverley, Woodville South, north-eastern portion of Findon and south-eastern portion of Woodville West (please refer to the map attached to this letter).
- People who come into contact with contaminated groundwater are at risk of exposure to TCE. While the concentrations found in residential bores are below the levels that could trigger acute poisoning, long term contact with the contaminated water is of concern.
- The exact source of this contamination has not been able to be determined at this time.

- Remediation technologies that could be used to clean up and restore the affected aquifer are not considered by the EPA to be feasible at present. Management of the use of the affected water is considered to be the only practical course of action at this time.
- The groundwater in the area of contamination will not be suitable for human consumption (drinking, irrigation, swimming pools and other domestic uses) in the foreseeable future.

The Department of Health is therefore requiring that the owners of private bores do not use the groundwater for any purpose.

In addition to putting themselves and their neighbours at risk of exposure to TCE, people who continue to extract groundwater in the area will contribute towards further spread of contamination and possible further increases in the levels of TCE in the groundwater.

Enclosed with this letter are a map showing the boundaries of the affected area and an information leaflet about TCE.

If you have any health-related queries in relation to this issue, please contact the Department of Health's Scientific Services on 8226 7100.

For enquiries relating to the investigation of the source and spread of the contamination, please contact the Site Contamination Branch of the Environment Protection Authority on 8204 9934.



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