

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
250 Victoria Square Adelaide SA
T (08) 8204 2000 F (08) 8204 2020
Country areas 1800 623 445

7 April 2015

Glenelg East groundwater and soil tests

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has commenced an environmental assessment program in the Glenelg east area.

This follows notification in January 2015 to local residents of the work to take place in the vicinity of the Cliff Street, Glenelg Dry Cleaners (GDC) and its surrounding area.

EPA Manager Site Contamination, Andrew Pruszinski said these activities will provide more information about the type and extent of potential groundwater contamination in this area.

“The planned environmental assessment program will help the EPA understand the nature and extent of potential offsite contamination in the groundwater and soil vapour to the south, west and northwest of the GDC site,” Mr Pruszinski said.

Environmental consultants *Greencap* has been appointed by the EPA to undertake the assessment works, which began today (Tuesday, 7 April 2015).

“Over the next few weeks local residents may see work crews in the area marking the location of underground services and determining final locations for the installation of new sample points ahead of drilling works,” Mr Pruszinski said.

“The assessment program will include drilling of groundwater wells and soil vapour bores, collection of samples and data analysis to provide a detailed report on the environmental conditions and a human health risk assessment. “

Assessment work at the Glenelg East site was first undertaken in 2004 when it identified a common dry cleaning chemical solvent, perchloroethylene (PCE), in the groundwater.

A commonly used industrial solvent Trichloroethene (TCE) and dichloroethene (DCE) were also identified, which are breakdown products of PCE, with further assessment work completed in 2011-12 confirming the presence of these chemicals in soil vapour on the site.

Soil vapour is the gas that forms when chemicals in the soil or groundwater evaporate.

“The planned assessment program will help the EPA understand the nature and extent of offsite contamination in groundwater and soil vapour in the vicinity of the GDC site,” Mr Pruszinski said.

The EPA has previously advised local residents and commercial/industrial property owners not to use bore water or groundwater for any purpose until further notice.

Mains water supplied by SA Water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

More information about the Edwardstown groundwater tests is available from the EPA on 1800 770 174 or by email at EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641