

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

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Glenelg East groundwater contamination update

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will conduct further groundwater and soil vapour testing in Glenelg East following the latest test results in ongoing investigations of groundwater contamination in the area.

The EPA today wrote to 280 residential and commercial properties in the Glenelg East area to provide an update to the community on the ongoing investigations.

Residents were notified in June last year that further groundwater testing and soil vapour testing would occur in the second half of 2014 and they would be advised of the results.

The chemical substances detected in groundwater include petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons (TCE, DCE and PCE) that have historically been associated with petroleum storage and dry cleaning activities undertaken in the area.

The testing found PCE, TCE and DCE in both groundwater and soil vapour. However further work is required to undertake a human health risk assessment and to determine the full extent of the plume. Concentrations were highest at the source site and reduce significantly with distance away from the source site.

The EPA will conduct testing between March and May 2015 to further investigate soil vapour and to determine the extent of the groundwater plume. A risk to health from groundwater has been identified for a number of years.

Residents have been advised since 2011 not to use groundwater for any purpose until further notice. That advice continues.

EPA Operations Director Peter Dolan said the recent test results would enable the EPA to focus the next round of testing in a smaller area.

“The data we have obtained from the most recent round of testing means we are able to narrow the area where we will be focussing our attention for further assessment,” Mr Dolan said.

“Most of the testing will occur on public land and road verges, and we have also contacted the owners of a small number of private properties where we are seeking permission to conduct further testing,” he said.

Additional information for residents is available on the EPA website and at community information sessions which will be held on Thursday 29 and Saturday 31 January.

For further information please contact Ros Agate : 0434 609 394