

Community working group

17 May 2016

7:00pm – 9:30pm, Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street Beverley

Beverley and surrounding suburbs

Attendees:

Name	Representation	Name	Representation
Andrew Pruszinski	EPA	Cate Moore	Resident
Dr Ian Delaere	SA Health	Richard Evans	SA Health
Mitch Talbot	EPA	Tina Meakin	Resident
Dale McGill	EPA	Kevin Meakin	Resident
Rachel Hudson	EPA	Jayne Willcocks	Resident
Susan Ovenden	Resident	Mat Way	Resident
Debra Harding	City of Charles Sturt	Adam Filipi	City of Charles Sturt
Doug Scotney	Resident	Tony Kyriacou	Flinders Park Residents Association

Meeting notes

Welcome and introductions

Rachel Hudson
Principal Adviser, Community Engagement

Welcome and thank you to Dr Ian Delaere and Richard Evans from SA Health for making themselves available to attend the meeting. Questions will be held to the end of the presentations for this and future meetings – please see attached feedback and question form.

Review of past meeting notes

- We have now sent out detailed responses to the questions raised at the last meeting
- SA Health are here tonight to present and answer questions

Summary of historical activities

Mitch Talbot

Site Contamination Officer

- A brief history of trichloroethene (TCE)
- It is estimated that TCE was first introduced to Australia in around 1910
- What TCE was used for and what industries were using it
- How much TCE was historically and is currently being used
- The most likely cause of TCE contamination in Beverley is historical disposal by burial
- History of the suburb of Beverley, a mixture of residential and industrial land uses with a consistent but gradual shift towards industrial/commercial use

Broader Beverley area results

Dale McGill

Acting Principal Adviser, Site Contamination

- The broader objectives of the Beverley Broader Assessment works undertaken by JBS&G were to determine the extent of vapour and groundwater contamination, and potential source locations based on new data.
- The JBS&G report only analysed the wider assessment area. Site specific works being undertaken by Golder Associates are included but not updated. Golder's report is due in early June 2016 and the site specific results will be reported on separately.

SA Health advice

Dr Ian Delaere

Manager – Toxicology, Scientific Services Branch

- Provided an introduction to the history of TCE guideline setting in South Australia:
 - how guidelines were derived at a local, national and international level
 - consistency between jurisdictions
 - why jurisdictions differ in their approach to setting guidelines; and
 - why guidelines change over time and what they mean.
- Discussed the [TCE Indoor Air Action Level Framework](#), what these levels mean and practical means for residents to reduce exposure.
- The scientific community is relatively comfortable that at the 2-20µg/m³ range you should pay attention to these chemicals and their exposures.
- In the event that people are being exposed to TCE we are encouraging people to have less exposure.
- Managing exposure to remain below 2µg/m³ will be protective to all members of community.
- Residents who would like confidential advice are welcome to contact SA Health, regarding their personal testing results and what they mean from a health perspective.

Questions and answers – SA Health

What sort of levels have animals been subjected to, to give them kidney cancer?

- Laboratory rats exposed to 600 parts per million (ppm) TCE vapour for 1 year displayed increased incidences of kidney cancer.

Managing exposure – is SA Health comfortable this has been adequately assessed?

- In the event that people are being exposed to TCE we are encouraging people to have less exposure. It's going to take a considerable time for people to find out whether or not they are exposed (i.e. testing takes time). Practical actions may include partially opening of windows. It may also be helpful to open internal doors as this improves airflow within a house.

In the report, one soil vapour bore has increased from 500 to 52000. If it can change by hundreds of times, is it safe?

- SA Health has not reviewed the report. In the event that indoor air is above 2mg/m³ for TCE exposure reduction is recommended.

So what you're saying is that we should all move out?

- Absolutely not – there are practical measures you can take. I open doors and windows as this improves air quality in my house.

Can TCE be detected in blood and breath samples at much lower levels than previously recorded?

- There is research showing that TCE can be detected in blood at much lower levels than in the past and we are aware that there is some research into the assessment of TCE in breathe at very low levels but the research is still evolving.

Questions and answers – EPA

It still seems staggering that we have levels of 52,000?

- The EPA advises that we will never state absolute conclusions and we go back to all of these sites to build up that data set. Each step of the way, we look at results and sets of data. The other part to that is that the soil vapour data is the reason we've gone into so many private properties in Beverley. Twenty-four. We've done soil vapour, sub-slab, crawl space and indoor air sampling in this area. We've certainly seen significant variations in soil vapour here, and in Hendon and in Edwardstown. That variation is why we keep going back to these sites.
- Last year's work that Golders did (which has not changed in the Broader Beverley Area Assessment Report which we have just published), they came to us and said there are six properties that they predicted would have high concentrations about 200µg/m³. We immediately went in, based on soil vapour data, and found actual results of around 40-45 µg/m³.
- It is important to remember that the readings in the actual groundwater and soil vapour underground are always going to be much higher than the indoor air in homes, which is where the concern is for residents.

When will you be able to test the westward movement of the groundwater?

- We've put in another ten wells.

As far as managing our exposure personally, what else can we do apart from opening doors?

- The EPA is working on a fact sheet on what people can do in their homes, and will endeavour to finalise this and circulate to residents as soon as possible. Some of this information was previously provided to the group in a presentation by Ian Hers from the USA, and we will collate together with the information previously provided.

How about providing grants for air purifiers and grants for this type of equipment? Or for plants that absorb TCE?

- The EPA does not have any plans to provide grants to individuals for installing this type of system in their home.

Next meeting Tuesday 5 July 2014

As we are now expecting a final report from Golder Associates around the third or fourth week of June. The EPA proposes to postpone the next **Community Working Group meeting on 5 July 2016** as a result.

For the benefit of residents tested, we are proposing to hold a smaller group meeting in the interim, where SA Health and EPA staff will address concerns in a private forum.

Further information

For further information on site contamination please contact:

Site Contamination Branch	Telephone:	(08) 8204 2004
Environment Protection Authority	Freecall (country):	1800 729 175
GPO Box 2607	Website:	www.epa.sa.gov.au
Adelaide SA 5001	Email:	EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au

For health related information on site contamination please contact:

Scientific Services Branch,	Telephone:	(08) 8226 7100
Public Health Services, SA Health	Website:	www.sahealth.sa.gov.au
11 Hindmarsh Square	Email:	public.health@health.sa.gov.au
Adelaide SA 5000		
