



SITE CONTAMINATION

**Community information session
Unley assessment area**

11 May 2017

Summary

This report summarises the community information session held on 11 May 2017, for residents within the Unley assessment area. The purpose of the session was to inform residents about the site contamination work the EPA is undertaking at this orphan site.



A/Principal Adviser Site Contamination, Dale McGill, at the Unley Community Centre

Unley – ‘orphan site’ under assessment by the EPA

An ‘orphan’ site is a term used to describe a situation where there is site contamination and the original polluter no longer exists, cannot be found or identified, or is unable to carry out or pay the costs of the assessment or remediation that is required.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has a prioritised works program to investigate contaminated sites where it holds enough information to warrant further investigation into whether there is a potential human health risk.

The EPA holds a number of site contamination assessment reports for several sites between Charles Lane and Mary Street at Unley. The chemicals of concern include heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons in soil, trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) in soil vapour, and heavy metals, TCE and carbon tetrachloride (CTC) in groundwater.

The works planned for Unley are to determine whether soil vapour contamination exists in the area, and whether additional assessment works are required. These works will all be undertaken in road verges and on public land, and the results will be used to inform a computer model that predicts indoor air concentrations.

Community engagement approach

The Environment Protection Authority embarked on a community information approach that involved the following:

- A tailored letter to residents in the assessment area (285 residents) advising of soil vapour sampling in the area bounded by Charles Lane and Mary Street in Unley. The letter included contact details for the Principal Adviser, Community Engagement, a map of the assessment area and an invite to the community information session.
- The community information session for residents and interested parties provided the opportunity for the community to meet with representatives from the Site Contamination team of the EPA.
- Emailing and meeting with Renewal SA to provide a list of Certificates of Titles that were owned by community housing associations such as Housing SA and are affected by the assessment area - notifying them of the groundwater restrictions.
- Responding to incoming emails and phone calls from stakeholders, which were received directly to the Principal Adviser, Community Engagement, via the site contamination inbox and indirectly via the EPA call centre.
- Three fact sheets were provided on the following topics:
 - a Site contamination – general information and role of the EPA
 - b Unley key messages
 - c Unley fact sheet
- Soil vapour and groundwater contamination cross section diagrams.
- A further fact sheet was provided to those who wanted more information on 'Trichloroethene (TCE)' produced by SA Health.
- Maps were provided that showed the estimated locations of the 37 temporary soil vapour bores, additional 15 soil vapour bores and 20 groundwater monitoring wells.
- Website update.



Soil vapour and groundwater diagrams, and site contamination fact sheets available from the Unley Community Centre

Community engagement objectives

The purpose of the community information session was to:

- Explain to residents that the EPA has developed a works programme to determine whether soil vapour contamination exists in this area.
- To communicate with residents in the EPA assessment area that the results will be communicated once they have been analysed.
- Explain that the auditor is a specialist expert that is accredited by the EPA, and that the EPA has completed an administrative review of his report and is satisfied that it meets the criteria for a site contamination assessment report.
- Advise those living within the assessment area boundary not use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose.
- To establish trusting relationships with members of the community that are genuinely interested in finding out more about site contamination in Unley. This involves the EPA being a friendly host and welcoming members of the community to make them feel comfortable and reassured, and providing follow up requests for information that continue to establish confidence and trust.

Community information session

A total of 11 people attended the community information session held on Thursday 11 May 2017 from 6–9 pm at the Unley Community Centre. Attendees sat at one of the six tables to talk with EPA staff and spent around 15–20 minutes at the session on average. The atmosphere was very positive and there were no aggressive or agitated participants. No media announced their presence or appeared to attend the event.

Attendees from the EPA Site Contamination team were Rachel Hudson (Principle Adviser Community Engagement), Dale McGill (A/Principal Adviser Site Contamination), Mitchell Talbot (Site Contamination Officer), Carly Hibble (Site Contamination Officer), Lesley Cann (Adviser Site Contamination), Thomas McCarthy (Senior Adviser Site Contamination), Suzanne Behrendt (General Manager People and Performance), Melinda Clarke (Manager Strategic Communications and Engagement) and Peter Dolan (Director Regulation).

The people who attended were genuinely interested in hearing about the works and what the residual contamination meant for them living within the EPA assessment area.

Next steps

Next steps will be to undertake the assessment works and report them back to residents in the assessment area.

Further information

For further information please contact:

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