

Media Release

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

EPA tells Thebarton residents of indoor vapour results

The EPA has completed indoor vapour testing for a number of Thebarton properties after preliminary soil vapour results showed high concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE) in some areas.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said the indoor vapour testing was undertaken to better understand the potential risk to residents.

“We contacted the 17 impacted property owners and residents to seek permission to test indoor air and subflooring.

“Of those impacted, we received permission to test eight properties. Three of these properties measured no TCE in indoor air and are considered safe.

“Five of the properties measured are within the ‘Intervention’ category of the indoor air level response range. The EPA is continuing contact with the remaining property owners to offer testing.

“The EPA and Renewal SA are now working with these residents to design solutions that will reduce the TCE vapour to safe levels,” Mr Dolan said.

The initial soil vapour testing carried out between May and August 2017 indicated high concentrations of TCE at 1m below ground level in the vicinity of a small number of properties, including commercial sites, within the assessment area boundary.

When testing began in Thebarton, the EPA wrote to all residents and undertook community consultations. The EPA has kept residents informed throughout the process.

Environmental assessment activities in the area are part of a program developed to investigate orphan sites where the EPA has enough information about previous land use to call for assessments to determine if there is a potential health risk.

The groundwater contamination in Thebarton is believed to be associated with past industrial practices that used the chemical TCE.

The final environmental assessment report is due to be completed by November 2017.

The EPA has advised residents in the environmental assessment area not to use their bore for any purpose.

Anyone in the assessment area who has concerns can contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 or for advice on health contact SA Health on 82267100.

For further information please contact EPA Media: 0439 137 641 or epamedia@sa.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority