

Media Advice

Environment Protection Authority



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Soil vapour tests underway at South Edwardstown

Friday 19 August 2011

Testing for soil vapour movement is underway near the property at 1102 South Road, Edwardstown, to rule out any risk to the community from contaminants moving through the soil into the air.

The Environment Protection Authority was notified about groundwater contamination detected at the site on Wednesday, 27 July 2011. Further information provided on Thursday 4 August 2011 alerted the EPA to the potential for that groundwater contamination to have moved off-site and the investigation area was letter-boxed on Saturday, 6 August.

As outlined almost two weeks ago, the EPA is in the process of developing a testing program in consultation with health experts and environmental engineers to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination.

Part of that testing program is vapour testing at selected locations to assess scientifically if there is any evidence of the contamination being air-borne.

Environment Protection Authority Director Science and Assessment, Peter Dolan, said around 10 tube-like testing devices have been inserted into soil at a one metre depth at various locations within the investigation area along council road verges and within the property of 1102 South Road.

“It is important that the EPA and the Health Department can rule out any risk to the neighbouring community through soil vapour movement. This is work that can happen now in parallel with other plans being made to conduct and analyse groundwater samples from the investigation area.

“We saw no reason to delay this testing while some of the other work is progressed to map out the best way to delineate the potential underground spread of the groundwater contaminants, thought to be the result of a former leaking underground petrol tank.”

The actual work to install the devices and conduct the sample testing is being done by an environmental testing laboratory on behalf of the EPA.

The testing devices will remain in place for two weeks and results are likely to be available in mid to late September.

Residents and property owners within the area (including commercial properties with groundwater wells) are reminded to not use bore water for any purpose until further notice.

The area under investigation is detailed in the attached map. For more information residents can contact the EPA on 1800 729 175.

For further information contact Nicki Stewart on 0434 609 394.

Daws Road–South Road, Edwardstown Investigation Area

