

EPA 05/19639; 60624

28 November 2014

Dear Resident/Landowner

Groundwater Contamination Update

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is writing to update you about environmental testing to be undertaken in the Hendon industrial area as part of ongoing investigations into historic site contamination.

The EPA wrote to landowners, residents and businesses on 5 August 2014, advising of the presence of industrial chemicals, including trichloroethene (TCE), in groundwater, following the collection of groundwater (bore water) and soil vapour samples in March and April 2014.

TCE is a common industrial solvent, historically used in manufacturing, metal degreasing, automotive repair and dry cleaning industries. The contamination is the result of past disposal practices which were less regulated than they are today. In addition to contaminating groundwater, TCE can move with groundwater and re-emerge as vapour, which can rise up through the soil away from the original contamination site.

A report prepared by specialist consultants following the March and April 2014 testing indicated the health risks associated with indoor vapour intrusion were considered acceptable, but further testing was recommended.

Landholders in the area were advised that domestic bores should not be used until further notice. This advice remains in place. Mains water (from SA Water) and rain water are not affected.

The next round of testing will commence on **2 December 2014**. The testing will be undertaken by a site contamination consultant in the area directly to the north of the Hendon industrial area (see enclosed map for details of the location of further testing). These works have been commissioned by a third party which previously conducted activities which may have caused contamination in the area.

The testing will involve drilling bores and collecting soil-vapour samples. Testing will primarily be undertaken on public land such as footpaths and nature strips. You may see drilling equipment and testing work being undertaken in the near future.

In addition, a detailed site history of the industrial area is being undertaken to provide a better understanding of the mix and range of industries which operated in the area which, in turn, will help shed light on the nature and source of possible contamination.

The EPA is in contact with a number of identified parties to investigate their possible contribution to the identified contamination in the area.

If you have any concerns or questions, or if you would like to discuss this letter with an EPA officer, please call the EPA toll free on 1800 729 175 or contact the EPA by email at epasitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au.

Further information on the Hendon Assessment Area can be viewed on the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Peter Dolan
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
SCIENCE, ASSESSMENT & PLANNING
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY