

Media Release

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Environmental assessment results for South-eastern Edwardstown

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has today written to property owners in South-eastern Edwardstown to advise of the latest results from its ongoing environmental assessment program.

The EPA has been undertaking environmental assessments in the area since 2014 to monitor groundwater and soil vapour contamination following historical use of chemicals including trichloroethene (TCE).

Director Regulation Peter Dolan said the EPA considers that all properties in the area are safe from soil vapour intrusion.

“The results from the Stage 5 environmental assessment works show that the predicted indoor air concentrations for TCE are below 2 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), which is consistent with the results from the previous year,” he said.

In early 2017 the EPA focused on identifying sources of contamination. Three potential source sites in the eastern part of the assessment area were identified. Further work was required late last year to validate these results.

“Late last year the EPA installed and monitored additional groundwater wells and soil vapour bores in a portion of the assessment area to further pinpoint source locations. This also included vapour monitoring in service pits to identify any potential preferential pathways,” he said.

A full copy of the report is available on the EPA [website](#).

TCE is an industrial chemical used widely as a metal cleaner and degreaser. In the past, TCE was used in many applications including electroplating, cleaning metal, dry cleaning, decaffeination of coffee and as an anaesthetic used in hospitals.

The soil vapour testing assists in understanding whether any contamination is moving through the soil in vapour form. Preliminary data found trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) in groundwater and soil vapour at several locations within the assessment area.

The EPA reminds all residents that groundwater (bore water) in this area is contaminated and is prohibited to be used for any purpose. Mains water and water from rainwater tanks are not affected by this issue.

Home grown fruit and vegetables are safe to consume, provided they are not watered with contaminated bore water.

<https://vimeo.com/228759831>

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

Environment Protection Authority