

4 February 2019

Further TCE vapour testing to take place in Beverley

A new round of groundwater and vapour testing will begin this month in parts of Beverley where the aquifer is contaminated with chemicals, including trichloroethene (TCE).

Environment Protection Authority Director, Regulation, Peter Dolan said the contamination was associated with Beverley's long manufacturing history.

"In the past, chemicals were often disposed of by being poured onto the ground in the belief that they would evaporate," he said.

"There were also accidental spills and leaks over the years that soaked into the soil.

"Because of this contamination, we have been advising residents in this area since 2008 that they should not to use their bore water for any purpose."

Mr Dolan said TCE in groundwater could also result in vapours rising through the soil and entering buildings.

"A number of homes in Beverley tested positive for TCE vapours inside during the last round of assessments in 2017, and three of those with higher levels have already been fitted with underfloor ventilation systems that extract the contaminated air.

"Another 13 homes were found to have lower vapour concentrations, either in internal air or under their floors. They showed levels that were not considered to pose any immediate health risk, but still warranted ongoing investigation.

"These properties will be retested in coming weeks, and we have recommended that they should have ventilation systems installed as a precaution."

Seasonal soil vapour testing of the EPA's existing network of bores in the Beverley area will also take place in February and March, and there will be another opportunity for indoor air testing for residents who did not take part in 2017.

Soil in the area is not contaminated, making it safe to eat home-grown produce so long as it has not been irrigated with bore water.

For more information on the Beverley assessment area, visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/site_contamination_monitoring/assessment_area/s/beverley_woodville_west_south_findon_allenby_gdns