

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Edwardstown groundwater and soil testing

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will soon commence an environmental assessment program to determine the extent of possible groundwater and soil contamination in the vicinity of two industrial sites at Edwardstown.

Groundwater contamination at the sites in Arabrie and Erudina Avenues was first identified through a previous testing program undertaken by the site owner.

EPA Manager Site Contamination, Andrew Pruszinski said that while discussions continue with the owner of the site, the EPA has taken steps to assess and provide a better understanding of the nature and extent of the potential contamination to offer further clarity to the community about environmental conditions in this area.

“Contamination adjacent to industrial areas is not uncommon however, when a potential site is identified it is important to undertake a thorough assessment in order to provide clarity to the community about the environmental conditions in the area,” Mr Pruszinski said.

“We have engaged with the local community adjacent the site to involve them in the assessment process and ensure they have an opportunity to understand the steps and the reason for the work.”

Mr Pruszinski said that the chemical Trichloroethene or TCE has been identified in the groundwater in the area.

“Trichloroethene (TCE) was a commonly-used industrial solvent used in manufacturing particularly as a degreaser. The chemical was often disposed of by pouring it on the ground at a time when chemical disposal practices were not regulated to the extent that they are today,” he said.

Work crews will be present in the area over the next 2 to 3 weeks marking the location of underground services and determining the final locations for the installation of new sample points.

Groundwater and soil samples will be collected from these points and compiled in a detailed report which will be made available to the public. The report will detail the environmental conditions of the area and identify any response that may be necessary to address the findings.

The report is expected to be made available to the public in July 2015 on the EPA website through the EPA Public Register. Residents engaged in the process will also be informed of the findings directly by the EPA.

The EPA has previously advised residents and commercial/industrial property owners in the area not to use bore water or groundwater for any purpose until further notice.

Mains water supplied by SA Water and rainwater tanks are not affected.

[More information about the Edwardstown groundwater tests is available from the EPA on 1800 770 174 or by email at \[EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au\]\(mailto:EPASiteContam@epa.sa.gov.au\)](#)

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