

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park site contamination assessment works

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) today letterboxed approximately 1,400 residential and commercial properties in the Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park area to inform the local community of site contamination assessment work to be undertaken, and to invite them to community information sessions.

Letters were also sent to approximately 350 people who own property in the Clovelly Park/Mitchell Park EPA Assessment Area, but do not live in the area.

The EPA has advised that the extent of groundwater and soil vapour contamination from trichloroethene (TCE) originating from at least three sources has not yet been determined. A site contamination consultant will be engaged to undertake further assessment work.

The map of the Clovelly Park/Mitchell Park EPA Assessment Area is attached. The assessment work, to commence in August 2014 and be undertaken over three to four months, will include groundwater and soil vapour sampling.

Residents have been advised not to use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose until further notice.

The key contaminant of concern is the solvent TCE, a chemical used widely in industry, particularly for metal cleaning and degreasing.

Extensive testing has occurred in the Clovelly Park area since the EPA was notified of TCE in groundwater in 2008.

The letterbox-drop follows a doorknock of approximately 45 properties in Clovelly Park on 2 July 2014 by the EPA, SA Health and Housing SA, to inform of precautionary measures being undertaken due to the identification of elevated TCE in soil vapour. A recommendation was made that residents of approximately 31 properties be relocated over a six-month period while further investigations are undertaken.

The residents have been advised by SA Health that there is no immediate risk posed by the TCE in soil vapour.

The EPA is undertaking further assessment works based on the draft Vapour Intrusion Risk Assessment (VIRA) Report and subsequent modelling that has been undertaken by a consultant employed by the EPA in the past two weeks. The further assessment work is also based on discussions with SA Health following the review of the draft VIRA Report.

In addition to the work being done by the EPA, further groundwater and soil vapour testing will be undertaken in this area by other parties over the coming weeks.

EPA Operations Director, Science, Assessment and Planning, Peter Dolan has advised that the EPA has no information to suggest that further precautionary measures will be recommended in the wider Clovelly Park/Mitchell Park EPA Assessment Area.

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394
Environment Protection Authority

“Further investigations need to be undertaken to delineate the nature and extent of site contamination in Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park. We have indicated all along that our priority is the people in the area and undertaking the further investigation work as soon as possible,” said Mr Dolan.

The EPA has invited residents within the Clovelly Park/Mitchell Park EPA Assessment Area to attend community information sessions to be held on Saturday, 26 July and Monday, 28 July where they will have the opportunity to meet with the EPA, SA Health and Housing SA officers to discuss the upcoming assessment works.

The EPA is also establishing a community reference group to meet regularly and discuss the work being undertaken, and has invited participants from the Clovelly Park/Mitchell Park EPA Assessment Area.

The EPA will keep the community informed about the outcomes from the assessment works.

Additional information is available on the EPA website www.epa.sa.gov.au. Residents can also contact the EPA on telephone 1800 770 174 (8 am to 8 pm weekdays) or via email epasitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au.

