

## KDHE plans meeting on contamination

5/15/2009

KDHE plans meeting on contamination

By TIM UNRUH

Salina Journal

HANOVER -- The Kansas Department of Health & Environment plans a public meeting 7 p.m. May 28 at the Kloppenberg Senior Center in Hanover to provide results of an ongoing investigation into contamination at a former grain storage site.

A grain fumigant used at a federal grain storage site at Hanover from 1950 through the early 1970s has contaminated soil, groundwater and indoor air in Hanover, and the underground plume has moved under the town, KDHE officials said Wednesday in a conference call from Topeka.

State health officials intend to inform the public of progress made and to listen to and understand community concerns, according to a KDHE release.

The fumigant, known as 80-20, consisting of 80 percent carbon tetrachloride and 20 percent carbon disulfide, was used at the grain storage site where there were several metal grain bins.

Carbon tetrachloride is categorized by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as a probable human carcinogen that can cause liver, kidney and nervous system damage, according to KDHE.

How the fumigant got into the soil has not been determined, said Chris Carey, a KDHE environmental scientist.

The maximum amount of carbon tetrachloride allowed in drinking water is 5 parts per billion.

"We're dealing with levels up to 617 parts per billion (in groundwater)," Carey said.

Chloroform was detected in groundwater at concentrations up to 18 parts per billion, well below the maximum limits of 80 ppb, the fact sheet reads.

The two contaminants were not detected in concentrations above "KDHE threshold values" in soil samples, according to spokesman Mike Heideman.

Not for drinking water

The affected wells in the area are not used for drinking water, Carey said. Hanover's water supply comes from Washington County Rural Water District No. 1. The RWD's wells are several miles north of the site.

The contaminants were first detected in 1998 in private wells near the 601-acre site.

The site was developed as residential property in the mid-1970s. Contaminants were detected in the soil and in indoor air samples during summer 2007.

"Based on those results (in 2007), the KDHE determined it would be prudent to do a full investigation," Carey said.

Vapor intrusion is a concern in some homes built over the grain storage site, but it can be dealt with using aeration equipment similar to that used for radon mitigation, he said, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay for it.

"It is possible to mitigate. The risk can be corrected," said Beth Finzer, a KDHE environmental scientist.

Forty-five monitoring wells have been installed to determine the extent of the contamination.

Once the extent and magnitude of contamination is determined, "The next step is to look at options available to clean the site up," Carey said. "It will ultimately be USDA's responsibility to do the cleanup under KDHE's oversight."

At this point, the contamination has been identified in several monitoring wells as far away as 600 feet southwest of the former grain storage site, said Jean Underwood, chief of the KDHE site remediation unit.

"It's not posing an imminent health threat," she said. "We have the luxury of time."

n Reporter Tim Unruh can be reached at 822-1419 or by e-mail at [tunruh@salina.com](mailto:tunruh@salina.com).

©Salina Journal

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS  
**hutchnews.com**

### More testing urged for Lyons site

**LYONS - Engineers should conduct further testing at the site of a former Lyons dry cleaning business to determine whether accumulated chemicals are creating dangerous vapors in the building, an environmental engineering firm has recommended.**

**No additional effort to clean groundwater under the site, however, beyond a system already in place to address decades old salt mining pollution moving beneath the city, is required, according to a report by Terracon Consultants Inc.**

**The assessment of contaminants at the site of the former Wee Care Laundry, 315 N. East Ave., was prompted by increasing levels of perchloroethylene (PCE) detected in a lawn and garden watering well at a residence about 3,000 feet from the building.**

**City officials recently received the report, with its recommendations.**

**Costs for the continuing assessment and cleanup are being borne by the Kansas Dry Cleaning Facility Release Trust Fund, said Lyons City Administrator John Sweet, because it is an "orphan" site, with the original dry cleaning business going into bankruptcy in 2000.**

**The site, originally a telegraph office, served as a family-owned dry cleaning business through three generations, according to Terracon's report. Floyd Williamson started the business in the 1940s. His son, Fred Williamson, operated it through the early 1990s, and then his grandson, Mike Williamson, until 2000. Kenneth Hass and Jones Oil Co. bought the building in 1998. Chris Hass now owns it and uses it for storing oil, lubricants and tires.**

**Terracon's assessment found highest concentrations of PCE and trichloroethylene, or TCE, a chemical created when PCE breaks down, in a corner of the business where a dry cleaning machine was located, along a floor trench, the floor drains it led to, and cracks in the concrete floor. Chemicals also were detected where a Dumpster was once located outside, which is where filters for the dry cleaning machine were dried.**

**Terracon recommended additional soil probes beneath the building, to determine how deep the soil contamination goes, and a "vapor intrusion assessment," to determine whether vapors in the building are dangerous to those entering.**

**The water table is 331/2 feet below the surface in the area of the business, the report stated. Salt Creek is about a half mile to the south.**

**Officials don't have to worry about cleaning the water, Sweet said, because the Lyons Northern Containment Project will handle it. Dedicated in December 2005, the \$440,000 project involved sinking two containment wells south of town that draw some 230 gallons-per-minute of contaminated water from the aquifer and pipe it to deep disposal wells at North American Salt.**

**The containment wells, more than a mile north of the city's public water supply wells, prevent the contamination from flowing farther south and thus protect the city's water supply.**

**The state created the project to handle chloride contamination from salt mining operations conducted at a mine north of Lyons from the late 1800s until 1948. While assessing that contamination, environmental engineers also identified other volatile organic chemicals such as PCE in the water at various locations, thus the testing of the well near Wee Care. That 1999 study identified 11 potential VOC contamination sources that were former businesses and nine still operating at the time.**

**"All the water passing beneath the city flows to this narrowed area where the wells are located," Sweet said. "The cleanup taking care of the salt assists in cleaning up all other contaminants at the same time."**

**Removing the contaminated water is expected to take another 30 to 40 years, Sweet said.**

**baltimoresun.com**

VJ

## State tackling toxic vapor problems in Westport

### MDE to add ventilation systems in three homes, treat ground water

By Timothy B. Wheeler | [tim.wheeler@baltsun.com](mailto:tim.wheeler@baltsun.com)

MD

12:00 PM EDT, July 29, 2009

Ventilation systems are being installed by the state in three homes in Baltimore's Westport neighborhood, according to state officials, after tests found toxic vapors seeping into the dwellings from long-abandoned industrial sites nearby that had been the focus of an emergency hazardous-waste cleanup decades ago.

In addition, said James Carroll of the Maryland Department of the Environment, efforts are under way to treat potentially cancer-causing solvents in the ground water beneath the former Chemical Metals Industries sites, which officials believe are the source of the toxic vapors getting into homes.

State and federal officials met Tuesday night with residents and community leaders of the southern Baltimore neighborhood to explain their response to the problem. Residents complained after the meeting that they had been unaware of the lingering contamination until it was reported last week in the Baltimore City Paper.

"This is the first I've heard of it, and I've been volunteering in the community for 15 years," said Linda Towe, executive director of Project T.O.O.U.R., a nonprofit group working to revitalize the neighborhood.

Carroll said that MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been investigating the extent of the toxic fumes since 2003, when "airborne contaminants" were detected in a building in the 2100 block of Annapolis Road that was used as a field office by the state environment agency. The property was one of two a block apart that had been used by the metal reclamation business, and where toxic metals and solvents were used, stored and dumped in the 1970s before the facility shut down. More than 1,500 decaying metal drums and vast quantities of liquid and solid hazardous wastes were removed from the sites in 1981, in the first emergency cleanup in the nation conducted under the federal Superfund law. Tainted soil at each of the two properties was hauled away, officials said, and each site was capped with asphalt or thick clay to contain any remaining contaminants.

State officials said their investigation of the vapors first seen in their own field office has dragged on for years, in part because of difficulty getting owners' permission to test for vapors at the 20 row homes in the block between the two abandoned industrial sites. Many are unoccupied and boarded up, officials noted. Early testing also did not reveal alarmingly high vapor levels, they said, so the investigation did not seem that urgent.

Testing of nine homes in the block has found four have elevated levels of trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene, a pair of widely used cleaning solvents that are considered potentially cancer causing. The concentrations are not high enough to cause acute health problems, state officials said, but the levels found are high enough they could increase a person's chances of getting cancer if exposed for a lifetime. For that reason the state environment agency has offered to install "vapor mitigation systems" in the affected homes. The owner-occupant of one of the four homes has refused the state's offer, officials said.

The state also has hired a contractor to treat the underground pool of solvents at the site where MDE has an office. The firm has injected a chemical deep into the ground that it contends will react with the solvents and render them non-toxic.



State officials said they plan to sample the ground water next week and expect the results to show a significant reduction in contaminant levels.

The EPA, meanwhile, is still investigating the extent of contamination beneath the other former metal reclamation site, said Greg Ham, the agency's site cleanup coordinator. Federal action also was hampered by legal difficulty gaining access to the property, which is still listed as owned by the defunct metal company.

The officials' reassurances that the problem was limited to just four homes in one block of the neighborhood did not satisfy the residents who attended Tuesday night's meeting, though only a handful attended and few asked questions.

"There are too questions to be asked," said K Thompson. "I'm going to find out some answers. Thompson, 60, who runs a bar in the neighborhood, said she grew up near the metal plant and had long suspected the cleanup wasn't done properly. "If it's down in the water table," she said of the contamination, "it's got to be in other homes, too."

Copyright © 2009, The Baltimore Sun

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.fosters.com](http://www.fosters.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.



[Back](#)

Article published Nov 23, 2010

## Recent study shows no short-term risks at Somersworth's former Superfund landfill site

SOMERSWORTH — A recent study conducted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency found the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill poses no short-term risks to human health and the environment, although additional measures have to be taken in order to ensure the site doesn't pose long-term hazards.

City councilors were presented last week with the report, which details the last five years of remedial action at the site. Attorney Mark Beliveau, a Portsmouth attorney who gave the presentation to the city, said the EPA found the site's permeable reactive barrier and permeable cover are "performing very well" and there are "natural attenuations" that are reducing levels of hazardous substances.

While the EPA determined control measures have been implemented and are effectively operating, and sufficient cover is present on top of the landfill and its recreational areas, Beliveau said the EPA wants the city to follow up with four things before the remediation can be deemed protective long-term.

He said those four things aren't "all that significant," and include amending the 1994 decision of record document to add the measures taken to control landfill gas emissions, to address potential future risks posed to recreational users on the land's sports fields, and to add land-use restrictions for soil and landfill material.

These amendments are suggested "in the interest of good record keeping," according to Beliveau, and he said other things the EPA would like to see include additional tests of the upper aquifer in one area of the site to ensure there is no vapor intrusion into groundwater and residential basements, as well as historical records of the older portion of the landfill, which was closed in 1978.

He said the latter information has since been provided to the EPA.

The study is the EPA's second Five-Year Review Report since the completion of the landfill's remediation process in 2000, which is when the site's permeable reactive barrier was installed. The study on the 26-acre site on Blackwater Road is required every five years as a part of the remediation plan, which also included the 2001 installation of a permeable cap.

The city and many local industries used the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill as their primary means of solid waste disposal from the 1930s until the entire site's closure in 1981. Two years later, the EPA listed the area as a Superfund site because there was significant concern about volatile organic compounds contaminating soil and groundwater.

The discovery of the potentially-carcinogenic compounds prompted a major cleanup of the site, ordered by the EPA to be paid for by General Electric and the city, who were determined to be the largest parties responsible.

While the second Five-Year Review Report, which was completed in September, states it "is unclear at this time whether the remedy is expected to meet groundwater cleanup standards" by June 6, 2056, which is the end of the 55-year remediation time frame specified in the decision document, City Councilor David Witham said there is "nothing in the report that suggests" the area is unsafe.

"The remediation works," he said. "There is no cause for any alarm by the general public."

Beliveau said the final closure of the landfill, which involves a permanent cap, and the end of the site's monitoring will come once "consecutive rounds of sampling of the groundwater" down-gradient and up-gradient of the remediation "shows the groundwater is clean" and below EPA-allowed levels — levels he said the city has to meet even if they get more stringent over the years.

Until then, city councilors expressed a desire during last week's meeting to continue with the temporary, impermeable cap because Beliveau said the installation of a permanent cap is "significantly" more expensive and the current remediation shows the Superfund site is improving.

City Manager Bob Belmore said the overall project costs Somersworth between \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year. He said \$79,372 is designated for the remediation in this year's operating budget, which also includes a bond which helps fund a portion of the project's costs.

Beliveau estimated the project to date has cost the city between about \$2 million and \$3.5 million. He said much of that estimated cost was paid using a trust created after the city received a one-time lump sum payment in the 1990s as part of a negotiated settlement with the other landfill contributors.

The full 2010 report on the Somersworth Sanitary Landfill is available at [www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/somersworth/472131.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/somersworth/472131.pdf).

---





MA

## Cleanup halted, but officials say Framingham's Wilson School is safe

By Dan McDonald/Daily News staff  
MetroWest Daily News

Posted Jan 28, 2010 @ 12:42 AM

FRAMINGHAM — The cleanup effort at and around General Chemical, a Leland Street hazardous waste transfer station that is the source of groundwater contamination, is at a standstill.

Even so, town officials say, the contamination poses no danger to neighbors or the adjacent Woodrow Wilson School.

That's what town officials, engineers, and General Chemical told a group of more than two dozen people gathered inside the school last night for a Board of Health..

Solvents like trichloroethylene have tainted the groundwater under and around the Leland Street site since the 1960s or 1970s.

Cleanup of the site began in the mid-1990s.

Recent remedial efforts have failed, however, as the decontamination method shifted the water table closer to homes and the school.

General Chemical's engineers have worked on new remedial plans that would involve a combination of injecting chemicals directly through a well to break down the contaminants, and bioremediation, which involves injecting bacteria and nutrients into the groundwater, which would also break down contaminants.

The remediation process will likely take three to five years, said Michael Hudson, a senior project manager for FS Engineers.

Town officials emphasized the contaminated groundwater poses no threat to Wilson students or to nearby residents.

"Is it dangerous? No," said Public Health Director Ethan Mascoop. "But it is something we must monitor."

Principal Robin Welch says he has seen no indications of any harmful health trends.

But the skepticism remained palpable in the Wilson cafeteria last night. After seeing a slide showing large bins that contained mercury and asbestos situated by General Chemical up against a fence that bordered school property, Kristen Nason said, "How can we trust you to keep our children safe?"

Nason said she has a daughter attending McCarthy School but who could wind up attending Wilson in the future.

In response, Roy Swartz, General Chemical's compliance manager, said, "There was nothing wrong with storing it there," because it met state regulations.

Swartz said once the town brought their concern about storing such products so close the school, the company immediately moved the storage bins.

Following an increase in contaminant concentration in a groundwater monitoring well next to the gym in November 2007, the air indoors and at the school playground was tested. The results showed there was no danger to students or staff.

"There are people who are concerned about it," said Jane Conaway, who has taught ESL at the school for 13 years. "The verdict's still out."

Conaway wondered aloud why the town built the school next to an operation like General Chemical.

"This building houses 600 people everyday," she said.

Mike Hugo, the Board of Health's chairman, replied, "I'm as baffled as you are."

General Chemical hopes to have a implementation plan in place by summer.

The company has operated on its Southside site since 1960. Most of the contamination has been traced to a former tanker-truck unloading area.

Swartz said the company has begun to phase out its solvents operation.

General Chemical is licensed to handle halogenated and chlorinated solvents, oil and oil-contaminated debris, wastewater treatment sludges, acids and alkalines, metal bearing wastes, and pesticides, among other products.

(Dan McDonald can be reached at 508-626-4416 or dmcdonal@cnc.com.)



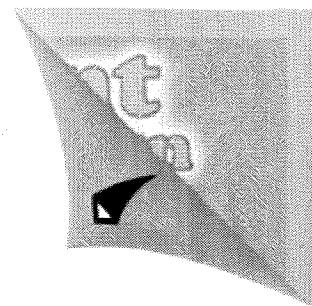
Comments (6)  
mickey1  
9 hours ago  
Report Abuse  
You must be logged in to report abuse.

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Police and Fire](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [High School](#)
- [Crash](#)
- [Adult Leagues](#)
- [Fun](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Gardening](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Town Info](#)
- [Government](#)
- [History](#)
- [School Info](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- [Your Vote](#)
- [Multimedia](#)

- [Cars](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Shop](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Ads](#)

[News](#) 

MA



# Family forced to vacate toxic house

By Sally Kerans

Wed Jan 18, 2006, 07:00 PM EST

Danvers - With a 10-day-old baby, two other children, and a house in their hometown, Tim and Stacy Creamer should be celebrating and settling in to their newly purchased home.

Instead, they are staying with their in-laws and coping with the stress of an oil leak that has forced them out of their house, cost them many thousands of dollars and sapped their emotional reserves. And their saga is just beginning.

Tim Creamer went to the Board of Selectmen this week to share his story, which has aired on a number of Boston

Television stations after WBZ-radio reported the story last week, according to Creamer.

Neither the realtor nor the home inspector mentioned the oil leak in his 1954 house, built by Campanelli Construction, Creamer told the Danvers Herald. Nor did the previous owners. But last October, within hours of moving in and removing the numerous air fresheners that were in the home, the house was filled with a petroleum-like odor, Creamer said.

"It's been incredibly frustrating, and to have everybody at every turn say, 'It's not our responsibility,' is just very frustrating," said Creamer, a Danvers native who moved his family back to town when they bought the Woodvale house last fall.

The Creamers are pursuing every means of recourse, including legal action. Last week, after Tim Creamer went to the Board of Health to explain his saga, the board voted to direct Health Inspector Peter Mirandi and Town Manager Wayne Marquis to further examine underground oil leaks in the town's Woodvale section.

This isn't the first time an undetected leak of heating oil through an underground line has forced a family out of their house. The Dienstadt family was forced to move in with their in-laws while they rebuilt their Mass. Avenue home, also in Woodvale, in 1991 (see adjacent column).

A third leak occurred in 1998, said Mirandi. Those homeowners had to pay for "typical oil remediation," he said.

### **The Creamers**

In late October, after only 14 hours in the house they bought at 107 Burley St., the Creamers knew the odor that enveloped the Campanelli-built house they just bought couldn't be ignored.

With Mrs. Creamer expecting the family's third child in January, they played it safe and contacted the Danvers Fire Department. Deputy Chief Lt. Kevin Farrell recalled this week that after investigating, "we advised them that they shouldn't stay in the house and told them they'd need a site assessment" from a licensed company.

State regulations require fire departments to contact the state Department of Environmental Protection when notified of possible contamination. The Danvers Fire Department did so, and although the Creamers had only owned the home for 14 hours, under state law they are treated as the responsible party. State regulations also require "the responsible party" to hire a licensed site professional to do an assessment and to pay the cost of cleanup, which can run in the thousands.

Mirandi said there are oil safety valves that can detect such problems. Officials notified electric customers of the availability of the valves back in 1998 when another oil leak in a house on Burley Street was reported, Mirandi said. As Creamer pointed out at Tuesday's selectmen's meeting, however, that information is only helpful to people who already live in town, not to prospective buyers outside of Danvers.

The fact that a third Woodvale house built by the Campanelli company has experienced an oil leak is getting officials to think about the potential of a larger problem.

Campanelli built hundreds of houses around the North Shore using a ranch design that sits on a slab rather than a basement.

### **'Categorical failure'**

"There is categorical failure in the design of the heating systems in the Campanelli homes," Danvers Health Agent Peter Mirandi said this week, "and we ought to be notifying people, but only after collecting more data.

"The immediate health implications from being exposed to heating oil are uncertain," said Mirandi.

"This could be the biggest environmental catastrophe Danvers has ever faced," Creamer told the Herald this week.

Mirandi isn't ready to agree with that characterization, but explained that he and town officials are responding as directed

by the board to inform Realtors in the Danvers area of "the design flaws in these slab houses and tell them it would be prudent to check for this before you sell," he said.

The Board of Health also directed the town manager to assemble a team "to study this more closely," Mirandi said.

Eric Arvedon, an engineer at the state's DEP, said assigning responsibility is difficult but necessary.

"If it's not the homeowner (who pays), then who? The oil company? The previous owner? Who?" he asked. "I have a lot of experience with this, and yes, it's a travesty, but let's approach it unemotionally.

"Sometimes there's insurance, most of the time there isn't, which we were looking to address years ago," Arvedon said, adding, "a home inspector can only report what he sees."

"If you can see a leak, you can assess it," he said.

### **Natick offers lessons**

Campanelli also built a development similar to Woodvale, which was built in the late 1950s and early 1960s, in the town of Natick, called Weathersfield. Similar problems surfaced there, according to officials and residents.

Jay Ball, chairman of the Natick Board of Selectman, and his wife, Erica, live in the neighborhood and held the first meeting of neighbors in 1993, when excavations in their neighborhood were becoming frequent.

"We all realized we all had Campanelli homes," Ball told the Danvers Herald this week.

The homes in Natick were designed in a way that allowed buyers a choice of a buried oil tank, an option many chose. Many of the Danvers homes don't have buried tanks, but fuel lines that were soldered together, making leaks possible.

"One guy just walked away from his house," Ball said of a Weathersfield neighbor. He couldn't afford the cleanup and couldn't sell, Ball said.

The neighbors formed a task force with the help of local officials. The town lined up vendors who could arrange bulk prices for the work involved.

Most significant, Ball said, was the help of Congressman Barney Frank, who managed to get some federal funding for an "insurance cap" which allowed homeowners to spend no more than \$5,000 of their own money on cleanup.

In all, Ball said, there were about 15 owners who availed themselves of the \$1 million in federal funds made available. He said there were 40 or 50 houses with tanks that either leaked or were near the point of leaking.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager Wayne Marquis said the town will examine the Natick model as it studies the problem.

#### **Tank Removal / Oil Spill**

24 hour Response 7 Days Free estimates 631-694-6156

[www.greenstateservice.com](http://www.greenstateservice.com)

#### **Oil Tank Removal**

How to control costs. See our oil tank removal guide to the process.

[www.ATStrust.com/](http://www.ATStrust.com/)

Ads by Google

Loading commenting interface...

#### **Free Oil Tank Removal**

NJ Grant Pays You 100% of Cost Free Info Shows You How

[www.entechgroupinc.com](http://www.entechgroupinc.com)

#### **Oil Tank Removal NYC**

Underground, Aboveground Tank Serving Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan

[www.RatecEnvironmental.com](http://www.RatecEnvironmental.com)

Ads by Google

## Camdenton eyes plans for old well contaminated with TCE

ADVERTISEMENT

**CALEDONIA PLACE**  
THE LAKE'S NEW ADDRESS

A 500-ACRE PLANNED MIXED-USE COMMUNITY,  
IDEALLY LOCATED BETWEEN OSAGE BEACH &  
CAMDENTON ON COMPLETED INTERCHANGE OF  
US 54 EXPRESSWAY.

[Click ad for details](#)

By Charis Patires  
Lake Sun Leader  
Sat Oct 04, 2008, 12:36 AM CDT

Camdenton, Mo. -

The city is examining its options for utilizing a contaminated well that once served residents in the Mulberry Street area.

According to a proposal from a consulting firm, the city of Camdenton could spend upwards of \$750,000 to design and install a treatment system to revitalize the Mulberry Street well that was taken off the city's water supply system in 1998 when traces of trichloroethylene were detected.

Last month, the Camdenton Board of Aldermen decided to ask the firm to come up with a proposal looking into what could be done with the Mulberry well. The board will review the agreement with Golder Associates, Inc. a St. Charles-based consulting firm, at a meeting on Tuesday.

The consulting firm will be able to determine what options the city has for using the well. The well is currently hooked up to an aeration system.

According to a proposal submitted by Golder Associates, the city is looking at the possibility of bringing the Mulberry well back online.

In order to do so, part of the process would require the city to submit to a revised water system operations plan to modify the existing water supply system and design and install a treatment system for the Mulberry well to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The city is looking at spending at least \$15,000 for an alternative analysis to select the most suitable remedy for the well.

To actually bring the well back into service could cost \$750,000 and involves the design and installation of groundwater treatment system.

The proposal states the "intent of the treatment system will be to effectively remove TCE from the extracted groundwater, and to hopefully not require chlorination of the water supply."

The Camdenton Board of Aldermen will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Camdenton City Hall.

### What we know

Modine is located on approximately 67 acres in Camdenton. The facility manufactures parts used in the manufacture of heat transfer products. Operations began in 1967 under the ownership of Dawson Metal Products. Sundstrand Tubular Products took over operations from 1974 to 1990. Modine has owned and operated the facility since 1990.

In July 1999, Modine entered in a Corrective Action Abatement Order on Consent with the Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Waste Program.

**Where it is**

The Mulberry Well is located about 600 feet east-southeast of Modine. In addition to the Mulberry Well, a private residential well across the street from Modine had concentrations of TCE above the maximum contaminant level. The well was being used as a secondary water source in the home.

**What it is**

trichloroethylene  
noun.

A colorless volatile liquid used as a solvent and formerly as an anesthetic.  
Chem. formula: CCl<sub>2</sub>=CHCl.

**What it does**

TCE is mainly used as an industrial solvent. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to large amounts of TCE can affect the human central system, and has been associated with some types of cancers.

\*Information was obtained through a report released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Contact this reporter at [charisp@lakesunleader.com](mailto:charisp@lakesunleader.com)

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

## Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

## Register

Email:

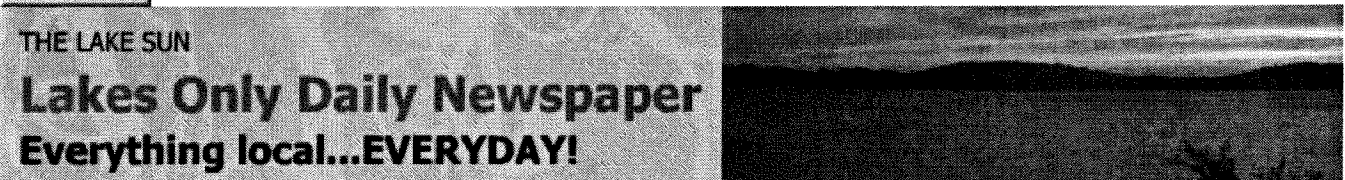
First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the [terms of use](#)

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"



THE LAKE SUN  
**Lakes Only Daily Newspaper**  
**Everything local...EVERYDAY!**

WEB BROWSING REDEFINED  FIREFOX 3

Bellevue Leader > News

## Soil study at PCS site finds contamination

Print Page

Published: Saturday, June 19, 2010 3:07 AM CDT

A study aimed at detecting soil and water pollution at the former PCS Nitrogen plant site south of Bellevue has found contamination at one location on the property.

A press release from project coordinator Olsson Associates said a testing location near a former electrical substation on the property was identified to have soil contaminant levels above the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Cleanup Program standards for industrial sites.

Based on the findings, Olsson will return to the property where it collected more than 200 soil and groundwater samples in March and take more samples from the affected area. According to the news release, additional sampling will help characterize the extent of contamination at the electrical substation site.

On March 8, a crew from Olsson Associates began taking soil samples at the PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer plant site on La Platte Road as part of a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant awarded to Sarpy County in 2009.

The purpose of the grant, through the EPA's Brownfields Program, was to find out if the property is contaminated with hazardous substances like pesticides, ammonia, nitrates and others, and, if so, how it can be cleaned up for redevelopment.

The primary goal of the project is the eventual reuse of the 950-acre property, which has been vacant since PCS stopped using the plant in 1999. PCS officials have said there are no specific plans for the site's redevelopment yet, but that the company is going to work with community members to identify the best potential uses.

One big plus for the property, owned by PCS' parent company, Potash Corp., is that it sits just south of the future Highway 34 bridge and connector.

The PCS plant operated from 1954 to 1999, producing fertilizer from hazardous substances like ammonia, nitrates, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds and metals.

Currently, Olsson Associates is revising the sampling plan to include the additional soil sampling.

Once the EPA has approved the revised plan, the sampling team will head out to the field and collect the additional soil samples.

After the samples are analyzed and the summary report is reviewed by the EPA, Sarpy County will host a public hearing along with Olsson Associates to discuss the results of the sampling.

— Jason Glenn

Copyright © 2010 - Omaha Newsstand

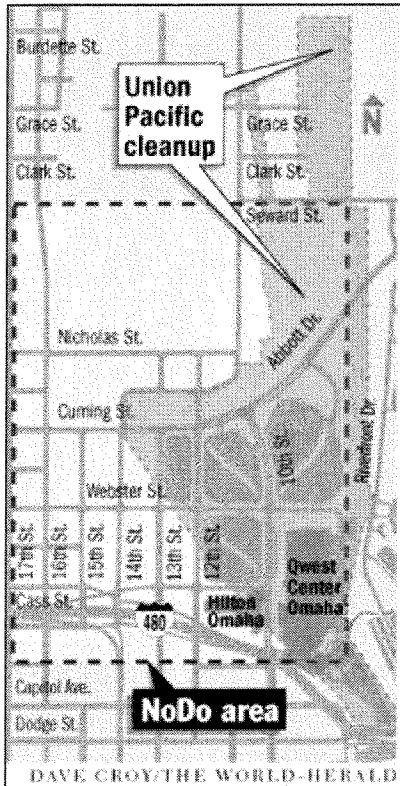
[x] Close Window

Published Monday | June 4, 2007

## EPA wants NoDo residences upstairs due to contaminated land

BY NANCY GAARDER  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Some of the condos, apartments and other living quarters in the heart of the trendy redevelopment of Omaha's north downtown will have to be on the second floor of buildings or higher, under restrictions the EPA is proposing.



Click to enlarge.

Contaminated land in the NoDo area once used by Union Pacific Railroad is being cleaned up, but generally not to a level intended to accommodate residential development, according to Environmental Protection Agency documents.

However, because civic and business leaders have indicated that housing is essential to reviving the area, the EPA has created "contingent" cleanup standards to allow residential use, EPA project manager Ken Herstowski said.

"We don't want to hold up activities," Herstowski said.

The Union Pacific property - about 110 acres - is the largest remaining swat of land that has required cleanup for the NoDo corridor to develop. Smaller sites in the area also will require work for full redevelopment.

Union Pacific has spent \$14 million cleaning up this land and about 100 adjacent acres. That work has included demolishing buildings, hauling off dirt and extracting diesel fuel from groundwater, said James Barnes, company spokesman.

The railroad, Barnes said, may end up spending several million dollars more as it works with the EPA to see that the land can be developed safely.

Steve Jensen, Omaha planning director, said the city faced a choice between idle land dotted with empty buildings or redevelopment. Once redevelopment became the goal, he said, residential units became an important part of the mix.

"It's a very large area - you could put a lot of the downtown core into that area," he said. "To really make that area as interesting and vibrant as you can, residential needs to be part of it."

Over about 100 years of use by U.P., the land became contaminated with heavy metals, volatile organic chemicals, asbestos and other substances. Groundwater also was contaminated.

This cleanup is unrelated to the Superfund project the EPA has undertaken to remove lead-contaminated soil from thousands of Omaha yards. That contamination is believed to be related to industrial air pollution from the former Asarco lead refinery.

The EPA bases environmental cleanups on a property's future use. Residential developments have to meet the strictest cleanup standards.

The EPA has proposed two sets of cleanup standards for the Union Pacific property, which sits in the heart of the north downtown development area and near the area being discussed for a proposed baseball stadium.

The agency will take public comments on the plan until July 13. The agency has scheduled an informational meeting for the public today.

### RELATED

- Saddle Creek Record: venue to open Friday

### U.P. environmental cleanup

**Learn more:** EPA open house, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Omaha Public Schools Teacher Administrative Center, 3215 Cuming St. Or read the EPA reports at the information desk, W. Dale Clark Library, 215 S. 15th St.

#### What's your opinion?

Write Ken Herstowski, EPA Region 7, 901 N. Fifth St., Kansas City, KS 66101, or herstowski.ken@epa.gov.



The first set of standards establishes guidelines for soil cleanup that allow for redevelopment into commercial, office or industrial properties but prohibits residential units.

This type of standard was used on former Union Pacific land at 13th and Cuming Streets, where two hotels are being built, and the land on which the Qwest Center Omaha was built.

A second, "contingent" set of standards would allow for residential development. Those guidelines stipulate that soil must be cleaned to stricter standards and that housing units be put on the second floor or higher.

These types of restrictions were used on the former Union Pacific land that is being developed into the Saddle Creek Records project at 14th and Webster Streets. Apartments in the project are on the second floor, and an additional layer of lead-contaminated soil was removed from around the building.

With groundwater, the EPA is proposing that contamination be monitored. No additional active cleanup is being required unless a problem is found.

The guidelines also describe construction measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of harmful vapors leaking up from the soil into buildings. The EPA also may require that indoor air be monitored in buildings constructed above contaminants that vaporize easily.

The agency is not requiring such "vapor intrusion" monitoring at the two new hotels or Saddle Creek Records because the contaminants in the surrounding soil do not vaporize, Herstowski said. The Saddle Creek site had high levels of lead in the soil; the hotel sites were contaminated primarily with lead and arsenic.

Vapors are not believed to be a problem south of Seward Street, Herstowski said. To the north, it's "more of a mixed bag," he said.

A total of about 210 acres belonging to Union Pacific has been subject to EPA oversight. Half already was cleaned up and transferred to the city under an expedited plan that allowed for construction of the convention center and arena.

The current cleanup plan applies to the 110 remaining acres.

Of that land, Barnes said, Union Pacific plans to continue using about 80 acres for rail operations. That parcel includes the most-contaminated property, former sludge pits. The EPA cleanup proposal lays the foundation for redeveloping that area, too, and the NoDo plan envisions some of it becoming an office park.

The two hotels under construction are on five acres, Barnes said, and 25 more acres are for sale by Union Pacific.

Contact the Omaha World-Herald newsroom

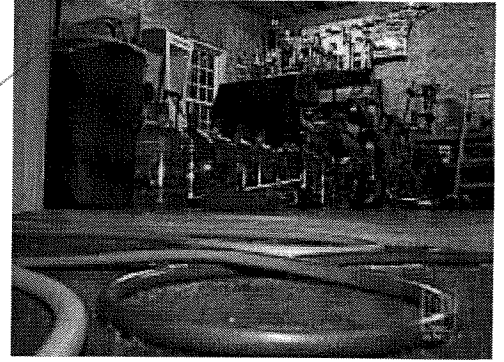
Copyright ©2007 Omaha World-Herald®. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, displayed or redistributed for any purpose without permission from the Omaha World-Herald.

Contamination Forces Raymond To Avoid Water

Related To Story

**State Delivers Bottled Water To Residents In Windmere Development**

POSTED: 11:50 pm EDT September 9, 2009  
UPDATED: 1:07 am EDT September 10, 2009



**RAYMOND, N.H.** -- State officials have told a neighborhood in Raymond to drink and cook with bottled water after the discovery of low levels of contamination from a nearby toxic waste site in nearby wells.

The state is exploring the feasibility of getting Raymond to extend town water to the Windmere development just off Blueberry Hill Road. The state believes the wells in the area are drawing toxic waste out of an old pig farm across the road.

**Video: Water Contamination Found In Raymond**

Homeowners on Windmere Road in Raymond are making space for 5-gallon water jugs, courtesy of the state.

"We provided bottled water to some residents and treatment systems in one home, and perhaps a second home," said Mike Wimsatt, waste management division director of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

The DES is taking action because it detected two contaminants in local wells: trichloroethylene (TCE) and arsenic. The state suspects the TCE is leaching into the drinking water from the Mottolo Pig Farm -- now an overgrown forest. The farm is an Environmental Protection Agency superfund site where the former owner buried chemical manufacturing waste in the 1970s.

"It's our assessment, at this point, that more than likely the additional pumping stresses that were placed on the bedrock aquifer by the development in the area resulted in drawing the plume of contaminants in that direction," Wimsatt said.

DES has asked some residents to avoid using tap water for drinking, cooking or bathing, and has provided the bottled water for an as yet undetermined amount of time.

"It is not a permanent solution. We need drinking water," said Ali Faraz, who lives on Windmere Road.

Faraz said Raymond should extend municipal water services to the area because of the potential impact of the groundwater on public health.

"We have, like, kids, you know? They take baths. So, you can't stop them from drinking the water, you know? This is, like, a serious issue," Faraz said.

The state is keen on the idea, too, because it knows it can't keep supplying water forever.

"We are talking with EPA about that, exploring the opportunities for EPA to participate and provide a water line,"

Wimsatt said.

WMUR News 9 spoke with one of the families that had a filtration system installed at their home. They said they are grateful for the state's intervention and believe their water is safe to drink.

***Tell Us More:*** *E-mail WMUR your tips and story ideas.*

*Copyright 2009 by WMUR. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

# Contamination prompts N.H. water warning

RAYMOND, N.H., Sept. 10 (UPI) --

Environmental officials are advising residents of a Raymond, N.H., neighborhood to drink and cook with bottled water because of possible well contamination.

WMUR of Manchester, N.H., reported Thursday state officials are concerned toxic waste from the nearby Mottolo Pig Farm has contaminated area water wells, putting Raymond residents at risk for exposure.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services said trichloroethylene and arsenic have been found in the Raymond-area wells and may have contaminated the town's drinking water.

The former owner of the pig farm buried chemical manufacturing waste in the ground during the 1970s and environmental officials suspect that waste likely found its way into the wells.

It's our assessment, at this point, that more than likely the additional pumping stresses that were placed on the bedrock aquifer by the development in the area resulted in drawing the plume of contaminants in that direction, Mike Wimsatt, waste management division director, told WMUR.

The length of the water advisory for local residents remains undetermined.

Copyright 2009 by United Press International  
All Rights Reserved.

NA

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.nashuatelegraph.com](http://www.nashuatelegraph.com)  
To print this article if a print dialogue does not open automatically, open the File menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Aug 8, 2009

## Board OKs housing

By TOM WEST Correspondent

NASHUA – The Planning Board has approved three multi-family housing buildings at 22 Marshall St., the former site of the Beebe Rubber Co.

The board voted 6-1 Thursday to endorse the proposal by developer Vincent Iacozzi of Londonderry to construct two buildings, each with 40 housing units, and a third structure with 32 units on 3.6 acres just off busy East Hollis Street.

The board set down 19 stipulations for the developer to follow before it gave the OK, many involving concerns about traffic.

A public hearing on the plan, which lasted two hours, almost never got started because Iacozzi and project engineer Bob Cormier didn't have a final report on the project from city Traffic Superintendent Wayne Husband.

They said Husband was on vacation but had indicated previously he would sign off on the development. After lengthy discussion, the board set down a stipulation that all traffic studies for the project be approved by the city before a building permit is issued.

Only two people – Ward 7 Alderman Richard Flynn and one of his constituents – showed up at City Hall to express concern about the development.

Because the plan calls for access to the new housing to be from Marshall Street, with only emergency access from East Hollis Street, Flynn and others said there will be major backups on Marshall.

The project is expected to generate 802 new vehicle trips each day, according to one study that was available Thursday. During peak hours, about 140 new trips would occur. Consequently, traffic from the project will likely use side streets such as Kehoe Avenue and Bowers Street, Flynn and others said.

"I think the side streets are going to feel real pressure from this," Flynn said.

The board agreed and approved stipulations stating that a third turning lane from Marshall Street be explored, along with regular access from East Hollis Street.

"For a site of this size to have only one way in and one way out is not the best thing," member Bill Slivinski said.

Another stipulation the board ordered calls officials to study how to get rid of a large hump on Marshall Street that causes sight distance problems.

Members also were concerned about soil and groundwater contamination on the former industrial site, discovered after Beebe closed in 2001.

Planning officials say the primary contaminant is trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent used for metal cleaning, among other things. A cleanup plan was partially approved by the Department of Environmental Services in 2006 and monitoring and cleanup work are continuing, Cormier said.

He said a new separate drain line along Marshall Street will be built to tie in with existing lines in the area of Bowers Street to treat storm water runoff from the housing site.

Also, the apartment building will be constructed on specially designed slabs to prevent TCE vapor intrusion into the structures, Iacozzi said.

The apartments will be priced at market rates to attract average workers with middle-income salaries, he said.

Jody Wilbert, the mayor's representative on the board, was the only member to vote against the plan.



## Report says home near Framingham chemical plan is safe

By Danielle Ameden/Daily News staff  
MetroWest Daily News

Posted Feb 01, 2011 @ 01:04 AM

Lawrence Schnapf recommends this article



FRAMINGHAM — While toxins have seeped inside their home, a family living next to a Leland Street chemical plant is likely not at risk for cancer or other health problems, a new Board of Health study shows.

Homeowners Tom and Carrie-Lyn Woodsum, neighbors of General Chemical, say they're relieved by that aspect of the report, but remain unnerved by others.

The Woodsums told the Board of Health last night they can't afford to move and feel trapped. The report, prepared by an intern, generates "more uncertainty," Tom Woodsum said, as the couple worries about the ever-changing levels of chemical vapors shown on air quality tests. Officials say contaminants from an underground plume have entered their home through cracks in the foundation.

"You're in the great American nightmare," Board of Health Chairman Mike Hugo told the couple, who have a 10-year-old son.

The board had tasked intern Jekaterina Porter with evaluating the health risk chemical vapors in the home at 119 Leland St. pose to the Woodsums. Porter, who recently earned her master's in public health from Boston University, presented her findings in a 52-page report.

Based on groundwater samples and air tests from 2008 to 2010, Porter said the family isn't at risk for health effects such as headaches, dizziness or liver or kidney damage, and it is unlikely the exposure would cause cancer.

She cautioned, however, the board ought to do further monitoring and work.

The family could have ingested or had skin contact with the chemicals, including cis-1,2-Dichloroethene and the toxins commonly known as PCE and TCE, when contaminated water flooded their basement last spring, she said.

Porter made a number of recommendations, including that the Woodsums not let their son play in the basement.

"Hearing her report tonight makes me feel worse," Tom Woodsum told the board, which met at the public library. "I feel worse now."

The talk came after Board of Health representatives met behind closed doors yesterday afternoon with General Chemical executives, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the town manager, a selectman and other town department officials for a quarterly status update.

Hugo assured the audience last night his board is diligently monitoring the contamination and the company's planned cleanup of the plume.

Two parents attending last night's meeting questioned the safety of students at Wilson School, on the other side of General Chemical from the Woodsums.

"Believe me, we are watching that like a complete hawk," Hugo said. He assured, "We're not in reaction mode, we're in proaction mode."

The board has put off holding a hearing to determine whether General Chemical's operation poses a danger to public health and safety. The hearing was originally scheduled for last May.

The board can decide to modify, suspend or rescind the 1994 site assignment that set conditions for the company's operation at 133 Leland St.

The company has been under scrutiny from the town and DEP, which fined it more than \$39,000 last June for pumping polluted stormwater into the environment and other hazardous waste regulation violations.

(Danielle Ameden can be reached at 508-626-4416 or dameden@cnc.com.)

Copyright 2011 The MetroWest Daily News. Some rights reserved

Comments (9)

Knight owl

12 hours ago

Report Abuse

You must be logged in to report abuse.

Report Abuse



## Hopewell Council gets Rockwell plan update

Rockwell Automation has no immediate plans to sell Somerset properties and is unconcerned about possible rezoning in the area

By Aleen Crispino, Special Writer

Posted: Thursday, July 10, 2008 11:19 AM EDT

Representatives of Rockwell Automation — owner of at least four and possibly seven vacant residential properties on the south side of Somerset Street in Hopewell Borough — say the company has no immediate plans to sell the properties and is unconcerned with the possibility, being explored by the borough Planning Board, of rezoning.

This information was reported by Councilman David Mackie and Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan to Hopewell Borough Council at its regular meeting Monday.

Rockwell intends to apply to the Planning Board for permits to demolish the remaining homes on the properties, then “plant some trees and landscaping and maintain them as residential properties until the (groundwater) treatment is finished,” said Councilman Mackie.

In a conference call Monday with Jennifer Elder Brady, project manager at the Cranbury-based environmental engineering firm Arcadis BBL, and John Persico, Arcadis BBL associate, Ms. Hovan and Councilman Mackie received an informal update on plans by the firm, hired by Rockwell Automation of Milwaukee, Wis., to build a groundwater treatment facility at 21 and 29 Somerset St. and to maintain the property surrounding it.

“They said their general procedure is they complete the remediation and then divest themselves of the property,” said Councilman Mackie. Exactly how long it will take to pump out and treat all of the contaminated groundwater is unknown. The project could be completed in “five, 10, 15, 20 years,” said Ms. Brady in June 2007.

Rockwell Automation, which, as Rockwell Manufacturing Co., operated a plant at 57 Hamilton Ave. from the early 1900s to 1975, has been ordered by the state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to clean up air, soil and groundwater contamination by “volatile organic compounds,” primarily trichloroethene (TCE), in an area extending from Somerset Street south to Lafayette Street and from Hamilton Avenue east to The King’s Path development in Hopewell Township.

As part of its effort to remediate the site, Rockwell has purchased two residential properties: 19 and 21 Somerset St., and has already demolished houses and felled trees in order to remove contaminated soil at these locations. In addition, the company has either purchased or is in the process of purchasing the five remaining homes on the south side of Somerset that lie within the borough, Mr. Persico said Dec. 20. The borough has received copies of deeds for 29 and 37 Somerset St., indicating that those sales have been completed, said Ms. Hovan in May.

Rockwell plans to build a recovery well and an approximately 60- by 40-foot Cape Cod-style treatment building, constructed of pre-engineered metal, at 21 and 29 Somerset St., said Ms. Brady in December 2007. Before doing so, it would need to present an application and site plan and receive the approval of the borough Planning Board. Demolition of any of the remaining houses also would require approval from the board.

At its last few meetings, the Planning Board has been holding public discussions of the 2007 Master Plan recommendation that the south side of Somerset Street be rezoned for commercial or industrial use. This recommendation was triggered by Rockwell’s purchase of the residential properties for its treatment facility as well as future plans by New Jersey Transit to create a railroad parking lot on the north side of the street for a reactivated West Trenton Line.

Members of the Hopewell Woods Homeowners Association, whose members reside on Elm Street and whose back yards are adjacent to the south side of Somerset Street, have publicly opposed rezoning for anything other than park or recreation use, and have stated their desire to keep the south side of the street residential.

Richard Friedman, of 31 Elm St., president of the association, presented the board Dec. 12 with a letter citing homeowners’ fears that rezoning would “adversely affect the quality of life on our street and in surrounding neighborhoods,” as well as that “this action would have a negative impact on property values,” which have “already suffered due to Rockwell’s pollution of the groundwater and soil in the Somerset Street area.”

The Planning Board has said its main concern is to prevent unwanted use of the properties upon possible future sale by Rockwell. “My overriding concern is to be able to control what happens there,” said Planning Board Chairman Bob Donaldson in May, describing a possible scenario where the land is sold to a developer wishing to build townhouses or condominiums.

Councilman Mackie said the views of neighborhood residents might be a factor in Rockwell’s future plans. “They’ve had some conversations with residents of Elm Street,” said Mr. Mackie, adding that this may have influenced the decision of company



representatives to maintain the residential character of the property for the duration of the remediation effort.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, council postponed a public hearing on the proposed 2008 budget to 7 p.m. today (Thursday) in the Hopewell Fire Department conference room on the first floor of the Municipal Building at 4 Columbia Ave.

Close Window

October 6, 2009

## New tests show elevated chemical vapor levels in Middlesex Borough preschool

By *JEFF GRANT*  
STAFF WRITER

A second round of tests has confirmed the presence of elevated vapor levels of two chemicals inside a local church preschool, but not in amounts anywhere near enough to shut the facility, the borough's environmental engineering firm has reported.

Trichloroethylene, or TCE, and benzene vapors in excess of the minimum New Jersey health department standards were confirmed Monday night by Rodger Ferguson, senior project manager for Sadat Associates Inc., to a group of parents and officials of Middlesex Presbyterian Church.

Elevated levels first were detected in a series of tests performed there in mid August.

The most recent tests were conducted on Wednesday, a day after results of the first tests were presented by Ferguson and Sadat vice president of operations Joseph Wiley to the Borough Council and about 20 parents. According to Ferguson, the latest air samples showed levels of TCE fumes at 16 micrograms per cubic meter in the preschool room at the church complex and 9.7 micrograms per cubic meter in the youth lounge. The findings for benzene fumes were eight micrograms per cubic meter in the preschool room and 13 micrograms per cubic meter in the youth lounge.

"These levels do not pose an adverse health risk," said Ferguson.

Still, the drop in TCE levels while those for benzene rose slightly is puzzling.

"We are admittedly scratching our heads about that a little bit," he said.

The environmental engineering expert said factors that could have affected the results of the two series of tests include the fact that the first group was taken during a very hot, humid day in August, while the second sampling occurred during much cooler, drier conditions.

Parents attending Monday night's session were provided copies of Ferguson's summary letter to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which must be satisfied that the vapors have been mitigated enough.

Meanwhile, Sadat is developing a plan to rid the building on Mountain Avenue of the fumes, using a series of fans and vents. Ferguson said those devices will target the gravel underneath the building's floor, where the fumes likely have become trapped in air pockets.

Mayor John Fuhrmann, who attended Monday night's meeting, said he's satisfied with the way the company is handling the tests, adding that he expects the firm to present a remediation proposal "as soon as possible."

Both Fuhrmann and Ferguson noted that the source of the vapors has not been determined, but said the firm is working to find that out.

Trichloroethylene is a common household cleaning solvent, often used as a degreaser, Ferguson said. It is odorless in the amounts found in Sadat's air samples.

---