



REMOVAL

Henry's Dry Cleaners

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



INTRO:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a public informational meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Laconia Middle School to review the results of the EPA's March 2012 investigation of the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination in the immediate area near the Henry's Dry Cleaners. Representatives from the Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau (HWRB) and the Environmental Health Program (EHP) of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) will be available at the meeting to answer your questions. This fact sheet has been developed to provide a short summary of the results of the PCE investigation.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Henry's Dry Cleaners (Henry's) Site at 36 Pleasant Street in Laconia, NH is currently an active dry cleaner business. The one story building was built in 1946 and is bordered by Pleasant Street to the north, a property owned by the Goodwill Industries building to the east, a parking area and Beacon Street to the south, and the Laconia Savings Bank property to the west. The southern portion of the building is constructed on a concrete slab foundation and the northern portion of the building is constructed over a full basement. Beacon Street West Condominium (BSWC), a residential condo complex, is located across the street from Henry's.

SITE HISTORY:

From 1986 to 2006, several rounds of groundwater samples were collected from existing monitoring wells located on BSWC where the Former Allen-Roger Mill (FARM) once operated. The groundwater samples indicated PCE at levels above the NH groundwater standards. The NHDES concluded that a potential source of PCE contamination was nearby. Since 2007, NHDES has been working with the BSWC developer Chinburg Builders, Inc. (CB) to conduct several indoor air sampling surveys at building B6, one of the two occupied BSWC buildings to evaluate the effectiveness of the vapor mitigation system installed during the construction. In 2011,

NHDES requested assistance from EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program to conduct a site inspection and investigation at Henry's to locate the source of PCE contamination.

WHAT DID EPA DO DURING THE MARCH 2012 INVESTIGATION?

EPA conducted sub-slab sampling at BSWC, Henry's and several abutting properties. The EPA Mobile laboratory, the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus, conducted mobile monitoring of the area surrounding the FARM and Henry's to collect outside ambient air data. EPA also conducted soil sampling and collected groundwater data from existing monitoring wells on both BSWC and Henry's properties.

EPA collected 14 indoor air samples and 3 outdoor air samples from and near the two residential buildings of BSWC. The air sampling results of all residential units were all below the proposed NH DES residential indoor air screening level. The TAGA monitoring data for each residential unit was also well below, with the exception of one residence. After further investigation, that residence had slightly higher levels from elements of lifestyle unre-

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Figure 1: Locations of Buildings that were sampled or monitored

lated to the site. Outdoor ambient air samples did not detect PCE or its breakdown products above the method detection limits. The concentrations of all indoor and outdoor air samples remained well below the EPA risk-based screening level for PCE.

The TAGA laboratory performed mobile monitoring by circulating along the nearby streets of Henry's. PCE was detected in the outdoor air immediately downwind of the dry cleaning facility, no other sources of PCE were identified during this mobile monitoring.

EPA collected 24 sub-slab soil gas samples at the previously mentioned sample locations in two residential buildings (B6 and B8), a vacant office (B3) and a garage (P2) of BSWC, Goodwill Industries (G), Henry's Dry Cleaners (H), and a garage near Henry's (P1) (see Figure 1). The sampling results from Henry's Dry Cleaners and the adjacent Goodwill property exceeded the NH DES proposed soil gas screening level for commercial properties. One sub-slab sample taken from B6 which has a vapor barrier and/or a sub-slab depressurization system previously installed, exceeded the NH DES proposed soil gas screening level for a residential property. EPA took grab samples from the roof-top vents of B6 and confirmed that the vapor is being vented to the atmosphere and, is not entering living space. No other residential samples exceeded the NH DES proposed soil gas screening levels.

As part of the groundwater and subsurface investigation, EPA took boring samples ranging between approximately 15 and 45 feet (ft) below ground surface. In addition, in order to characterize the soil profile, EPA took nine soil borings to depths ranging between approximately 15 and 46 ft and collected 116 soil samples for field screening and laboratory analysis. EPA collected groundwater samples from 12 existing monitoring wells to document the current groundwater elevation and quality.

Based on the findings of the investigations, EPA believes that there is a PCE source at or near Henry's Dry Cleaners feeding the contaminated groundwater plume. The horizontal reach of the groundwater plume is approximately 600 feet south of Henry's Dry Cleaners, through the FARM property. Preliminarily, the data suggest that the plume extends south from Henry's Dry Cleaners, crosses Beacon Street near the intersection with

Water Street, and likely underlies B3 and B6 on the FARM Property (See Plan Section of ECD Response).

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM HERE?

EPA has asked NHDES EHP, through the cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to perform a health evaluation of the current data. Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, EPA and NHDES may need to take additional measures to mitigate the risk of exposure to PCE via the vapor intrusion pathway.

To better define the vertical extent of the plume and, to establish baseline PCE concentrations in the groundwater, EPA plans to install a total of three sets of wells on Henry's or Goodwill Industries Properties. These wells will also provide additional information to aid in evaluating treatment options and designing a treatment strategy.

It is anticipated that it will take twelve (12) months to complete these tasks.

EPA has sent a letter with individual indoor air sampling results to each residence. The On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) will be available on July 19 from 8:30 am to 6 pm to meet with residents to review their individual indoor results. Please contact the OSC to set up an appointment.

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