

# FACT SHEET



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Webb Wellfield

Office of Land Quality

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[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

#### **Background:**

- The Webb Wellfield consisted of three municipal wells outside the town of Franklin, Ind. that supplemented the municipal water supply for Johnson County.
- The wells in the Webb Wellfield were impacted by the chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene.
- Based on the findings from routine samples collected of the finished water, the delivered water was in compliance with Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- Indiana American Water Company discontinued its use of two wells at the Webb Wellfield in 2007, and fully closed the wellfield by November 2013.
- The utility currently draws and treats water from its Sugar Creek wellfield. Data show that the utility continues to provide safe drinking water to consumers.

#### **Description:**

- The chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene are chlorinated volatile organic compounds that can be used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities, but typically derive from the anaerobic breakdown of other chemicals (e.g., trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene) used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities.
- As a result of the contamination that once existed in the Webb Wellfield, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has conducted investigations to determine the source of the contamination, how widespread it may be, and how it may be remediated. These investigations have taken place under both Federal and State authority.
- IDEM is currently overseeing an enforcement led cleanup of chlorinated volatile organic compounds that was identified during the Webb Wellfield investigation. The chlorinated volatile organic compounds from this site are the likely source of the Webb Wellfield contamination.

#### **Environmental Impacts:**

- Exposure to these compounds can happen in many ways, but most commonly occurs by releases that leach through soil into the groundwater and subsequently are taken up into drinking water wells.
- The removal of the Webb Wellfield has eliminated the main route of exposure for the contamination that was identified in the groundwater. Continued Investigation and remediation will also remove contaminants from the environment and remove any possible exposure pathways.
- A fact sheet on 1,2-dichloroethene from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) explains these compounds and their affects in more detail:  
<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxProfiles/ToxProfiles.aspx?id=722&tid=130>.

#### **IDEM's Role:**

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental activities vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's State Cleanup Program will continue to oversee cleanup of the contamination that has been identified because of the Webb Wellfield investigation and make sure routes of human and environmental exposure are eliminated.

### **Citizen's Role:**

- Citizens should notify IDEM if they have knowledge of additional sources of environmental contamination affecting this investigation or threatening the health and safety of the citizens of Franklin or the surrounding area.

### **More Information:**

- For information about Webb Wellfield and the environmental investigation resulting from its contamination, contact Tim Johnson with IDEM's State Cleanup Program at 317-234-3931 or toll-free at 800-451-6027, option 6; or at [tjohnson@idem.IN.gov](mailto:tjohnson@idem.IN.gov).
- For additional health-related information, please contact one of the following:
  - Mark Johnson, regional representative with the federal ATSDR, at 312-353-3436 or toll-free at 800-621-8431, ext. 3-3436;
  - Andrew Pappas, Environmental Projects Manager with the Indiana Department of Health, at 317-233-7360 or [apappas@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:apappas@isdh.IN.gov); or,
  - Elizabeth Swearingen, Director with the Johnson County Health Department, at 317-346-4374 or [eswearingen@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:eswearingen@co.johnson.in.us).
- For information about IDEM's State Cleanup Program, please visit IDEM's website at [www.idem.IN.gov/cleanups/investigation-and-cleanup-programs/state-cleanup-program/](http://www.idem.IN.gov/cleanups/investigation-and-cleanup-programs/state-cleanup-program/).
- For information about cis-1,2- dichloroethylene and trans-1,2- dichloroethylene, or other ground water contaminants, please or visit ATSDR's "ToxFAQs" website at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=463&tid=82](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=463&tid=82) .
- Media may contact IDEM's Office of Media Relations at 317-232-8596 or toll-free at 800-451-6027; or at [media@idem.IN.gov](mailto:media@idem.IN.gov).