



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Garden City Ground Water Contaminant Investigation

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Background:

- Past investigations by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) have discovered contamination from trichloroethylene (TCE) in some ground water wells in the Garden City, Indiana, Bartholomew County area.
- TCE is commonly used as a degreasing solvent in multiple applications and businesses.
- Improper disposal or spills of TCE can result in soil and ground water contamination.
- Residents and businesses in and around Garden City use private ground water wells for their drinking water supply.
- Currently several homes and businesses in Garden City must rely on filtered water for drinking water purposes.
- Contamination of ground water may also pose a threat to the City of Columbus water supply.

Description:

- Staff from IDEM will be conducting a soil and ground water investigation in and around Garden City, Indiana, during the weeks of August 8 and August 19, 2011.
- The purpose of this investigation is to identify the source of the ground water contamination and to mitigate its effects on Garden City residents, businesses, and the potential impacts on the City of Columbus water supply.
- IDEM will be using a direct push sampling device to collect discreet subsurface soil and ground water samples to aid in this investigation.
- IDEM will also collect drinking water samples from pre-filter taps or spigots to determine residential water supply impacts.
- IDEM will request written consent to access private property to obtain these samples.
- Residents and businesses will be notified of the sampling results and potential impacts.
- All sampling and notifications will be at no cost to residents and businesses.

Environmental Impact:

- TCE is a volatile organic compound commonly used in industrial degreasing activities. Improper disposal or spills of TCE can result in soil and ground water contamination.
- Exposure to TCE can occur in several ways but most commonly through drinking water.
- Human exposure to high levels of TCE could cause health problems. The accompanying fact sheet from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry describes TCE and its effects in more detail.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program works to assess potential environmental hazards and prioritize contaminated sites for further needed actions. Once the sample results have been evaluated, IDEM Site Investigation staff and management will make a decision regarding future actions.
- IDEM's Site Investigation staff will be available to answer questions and address concerns of residents and businesses.

Citizen's Role:

- Home and business owners can allow IDEM staff access to their property and water supply to collect water samples. The process may entail running the water for approximately 15 minutes to purge the well to obtain a representative sample.



- IDEM will ask some property owners for permission to take a below ground soil sample. This will entail the use of a direct push sampling device. The direct push sampler is a tracked vehicle approximately the size of a small car. IDEM will take the necessary precautions to avoid damaging property or landscaping.

More Information:

- For more information about IDEM's Site Investigations Program, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov/4143.htm.
- For more information on the Garden City Ground Water Contaminant Investigation, visit IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet at <http://www.idem.IN.gov/6551.htm>.
- For questions and concerns on this sampling event, please call Richard R. Milton, Project Manager, Site Investigations Program at (317) 234-6878, or toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-6878, or by e-mail at rmilton@idem.IN.gov.
- For health related questions, please contact the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (800) 621-8431, ext. 3-6086.