



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Masterwear Inc. Groundwater Contamination

www.idem.IN.gov

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Description:

- The city of Martinsville has three (3) municipal water wells that provide drinking water to approximately 15,000 residents living in Martinsville.
- Masterwear Inc. was a former industrial laundry and dry cleaning business that operated in downtown Martinsville from approximately 1986 to 1991. Improper storage and handling of hazardous waste at the facility resulted in a release of tetrachloroethylene (a.k.a. tetrachloroethene, perchloroethelene (PCE)) to the groundwater which eventually reached one (1) of the municipal water wells. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) investigated the site in 2003-2004 and a remedial system was installed at the contamination source in 2005 with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- The city has installed a remediation system that removes tetrachloroethylene from water so that the water being sent to residents for consumption is free of the contaminant. Recent testing has indicated that the level of contamination in the untreated water from the contaminated well has been increasing so that the untreated water now exceeds the USEPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water.
- Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal-degreasing. It is also used to make other chemicals and is used in some consumer products.
- Working under a cooperative agreement with USEPA, IDEM has determined a need to investigate the groundwater contamination so that appropriate actions can be taken to identify and remove or remediate the source(s) of contamination.

Masterwear Inc. Groundwater Contamination Investigation

- Beginning July 26, 2010, the Site Investigation (SI) Section of IDEM will be in Martinsville utilizing a push-probe drilling rig to obtain soil and groundwater samples from areas near Martinsville's drinking water wells as well as at potential source areas. IDEM staff will also be obtaining groundwater samples from existing monitoring wells, and possibly from private businesses and/or residences. The information derived from these samples will be used to determine the approximate extent of, and possibly the source of, the groundwater contamination.
- Representatives from IDEM may request to access your property to take a groundwater sample or a drinking water sample to accomplish this task. There is no charge associated with these samples and you will be provided with sample results from the analysis conducted on your property. Participation in this sampling event is voluntary but strongly encouraged.

Environmental Impacts:

- Left unchecked, a plume of groundwater contamination, such as the one in Martinsville, will move with the flow of groundwater, or possibly degrade into products that can also pose a long-term health hazard.
- Health hazards associated with high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (particularly in closed, poorly ventilated areas) may include, dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking and unconsciousness. Irritation may result from repeated or extended skin contact with it. These symptoms occur almost entirely in work (or hobby) environments when people have been accidentally exposed to high concentrations or have intentionally used tetrachloroethylene to get a "high." In industry, most workers are exposed to levels lower than those causing obvious nervous system effects. The health effects of breathing in air or drinking water with low levels of tetrachloroethylene are not known.

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (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.
- By conducting this investigation, IDEM will be better able to determine what actions are needed to assure that the residents of Martinsville have water that is safe to drink and use.

Citizen's Role:

- Martinsville residents and businesses can assist the State of Indiana by allowing IDEM to take groundwater or drinking water samples from their place of business or from their residential well, if needed.

More Information:

- For more information about IDEM's Site Investigations Program, please visit IDEM's Web site at www.idem.IN.gov/4143.htm.
- For questions and concerns about IDEM's environmental investigation, please contact Dan Chesterson, IDEM project manager at (317) 234-3505, (800) 451-6027 ext.4-3505 or, by e-mail at dchester@idem.IN.gov, or Steve McIntire, IDEM project manager at (317) 234-5311, (800) 451-6027 ext.4-5311 or, by e-mail at smcintir@idem.IN.gov.
- For health-related questions, please contact:
 - Clayton G. Koher, regional representative for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (800) 621-8431, ext. 36086;
 - LaNetta Alexander, with the Indiana State Department of Health at (317) 351-7190, ext. 262; or,
 - John Reynolds, M.D. with the Morgan County Health Department at (765) 342-6621.
- For media inquiries, please contact Barry Sneed, public information officer with IDEM's Office of Media Relations, at (317) 232-8596, toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8596, or by email at bsneed@idem.IN.gov.