

**Canal Road Groundwater Contamination Site**

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

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Background Information:

- The Canal Road Well Field and the Glick Well Field contain 14 municipal water wells that serve approximately 67,140 residents in the City of Lafayette.
 - A well field is the land above and surrounding wells that are placed in an underground water source (aquifer).
- Trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in raw, untreated water samples collected from one of the municipal wells during routine testing.
- In response to the discovery of the contaminant, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) initiated an environmental investigation. TCE contamination was confirmed in the water sample that IDEM collected directly from the municipal groundwater well in January 2015.
- The sample showed that contamination has not exceeded the federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE in drinking water. The MCL is a safe drinking water limit established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- The drinking water provided by the municipal water system in Lafayette meets all criteria under the SDWA.

Next Steps:

- In the summer of 2024, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will obtain subsurface soil and groundwater samples from various locations as part of an Expanded Site Inspection within the City of Lafayette in an attempt to identify the source of the TCE contamination observed in the well field.
- IDEM staff may need to contact businesses or residents to request permission to collect soil and groundwater samples from their private property.
 - Property owners who are asked to aid in this investigation will be asked to sign a property access agreement.
 - The sampling will be conducted at no cost to the property owner.
 - IDEM will provide the property owners with their sampling results at no cost.

Environmental and Health Impacts:

- Left unaddressed, the contamination detected in the municipal water well may become more widespread and pose a more significant threat in the future.
- TCE exposure can occur in several ways, but the most common methods of exposure are through ingestion of drinking water that is contaminated or the inhalation of TCE vapors that are released into the air. Where water is contaminated with TCE, vapors can be released into the air during bathing, cooking, and laundry activities.
- The U.S. EPA considers TCE likely to be carcinogenic to humans and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) considers TCE to be reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) considers TCE probably carcinogenic to humans.

Additional Information:

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the Canal Road Groundwater Contamination Site, including information on sampling results, details about contaminants commonly encountered in municipal well fields, and environmental impacts of contaminants commonly encountered in groundwater, to Dan Chesterson, IDEM Project Manager, at 317-233-7528; toll free at 800-451-6027, ext. 3-7528; or by e-mail at dchester@idem.in.gov.
- Questions and concerns about health-related impacts should be directed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at 312-866-1462 or the Tippecanoe County Health Department at 765-423-9221.
- Along with this fact sheet, IDEM is distributing the Trichloroethylene *ToxFAQs*™ fact sheet from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that describes Trichloroethylene and its effects in greater detail. This ToxFAQ can also be accessed on the ATSDR website at atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf
- For additional information on the Safe Drinking Water Act, visit U.S. EPA's website at epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act
- For information about IDEM's Site Investigation Program, visit IDEM's website at idem.IN.gov/cleanups/investigation-and-cleanup-programs/site-investigation.
- The news media may contact IDEM's media office at 317-232-8596; toll free at 800-451-6027; or by email at media@idem.IN.gov.