



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street • San Francisco, CA 94105

March 2015

The King's Academy Sunnyvale, California

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are sending this letter to update you with the results of the trichloroethene (TCE) indoor air testing that was conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at your school this past January and February, associated with the long-term groundwater cleanup at the "Triple Site." **EPA is working diligently to ensure the community is being protected from any chemicals related to the Triple Site. The good news is that in this sampling round the majority of samples showed very low concentrations which do not pose a health risk.**

The King's Academy Sampling Results

All of the samples collected from The King's Academy fully met EPA's requirements for protecting children's health. TCE was detected in some samples at concentrations higher than outdoor air (which is around 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter or $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, typical for a South Bay city). The maximum concentration was detected in a sample collected from a crawlspace beneath a portable classroom, which measured $1.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, samples collected from inside the portable classroom itself were similar to outdoor air.

Background on EPA Investigation

As you may know, EPA has been investigating the potential for vapor intrusion – a process where vapors from groundwater contamination may migrate into the indoor air – at schools and residences in the Duane/San Miguel Avenue neighborhood. Indoor air sampling has been conducted every year for the past 10 years at the Rainbow Montessori Child Development Center (Rainbow Montessori) to confirm that levels meet EPA's requirements for protecting children's health.

However, because we have learned more about how vapor intrusion can vary over time, EPA recently lowered its screening levels for TCE in indoor air to make them more protective. In addition, EPA has developed a more comprehensive testing approach. EPA took more air samples at Rainbow Montessori, The King's Academy, Children's Creative Learning Center and San Miguel Elementary School this past winter, as well as at 54 households in the neighborhood, to make sure that the new, lower levels for TCE are not being exceeded. The first round of sampling was conducted during the winter months, when we expect the concentrations of TCE in indoor air to be at their highest.

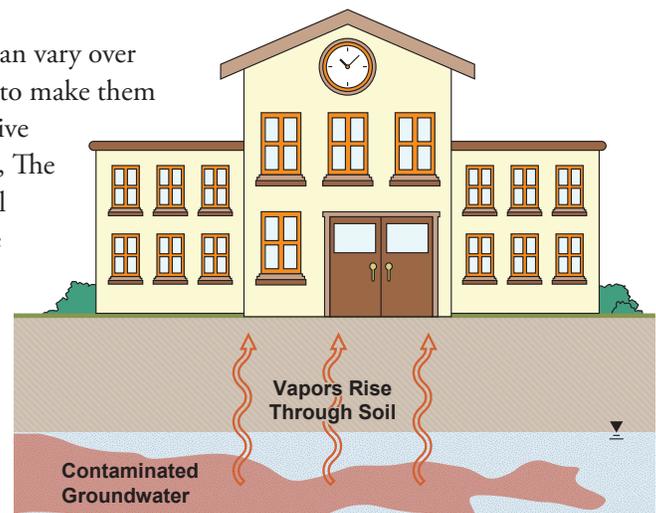


Figure: Vapor intrusion into a building

EPA considers the safe range of concentrations of TCE to be below 2.0 µg/m³ for “residential use,” which assumes a 24-hour-per-day/7-day-per-week exposure. These levels are very conservative for school occupancy, where exposures times are much less.

TCE and Vapor Intrusion

The main chemical of concern in this area of Sunnyvale is TCE. TCE can move as a vapor from groundwater up through soil under certain conditions. If vapors move under a building it is possible for them to pass through cracks and other openings in the foundation and enter the indoor air. If this happens, and if the levels are high enough and prolonged enough, it might create a health risk.

Note: Your drinking water is not affected by this contamination. Drinking water in this area of Sunnyvale comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

Next Steps

EPA will coordinate ventilation inspections with a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Specialist at each school to ensure that each system is functioning correctly and bringing fresh outdoor air into each classroom. **We are confident that supplying outdoor air to the classrooms will maintain the air quality for the children and teachers.** More sampling events at schools and homes are planned to better understand the vapor intrusion and help us decide whether additional monitoring and mitigation systems are needed as precautionary measures to further reduce risk.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 972-3050 or by e-mail to morash.melanie@epa.gov if you have any questions. You may also contact EPA’s Community Involvement Coordinator, Alejandro Diaz, at (415) 972-3242 or by e-mail to diaz.alejandro@epa.gov. EPA also has a website for the project: www.epa.gov/region9/triplesite which has additional information.

Sincerely,



Melanie Morash, Project Manager