

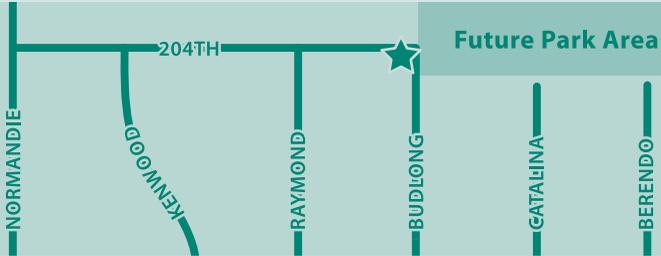
Temporary EPA On-Site Office

During the sampling, EPA will be hosting informal “office hours” at a mobile site located on the corner of 204th St. and Budlong Ave. EPA officials will be available to answer questions, make appointments to discuss sampling and collect access agreements.

Dates and times will be published on the EPA Del Amo and Montrose websites.

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For More Information about the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund Sites

EPA Contact Information

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EPA Websites

www.epa.gov/region09/montrose
www.epa.gov/region09/delamo



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Alejandro Diaz (Montrose/Del Amo 2/15)

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Del Amo & Montrose Superfund Sites

February 2015

Request for Indoor Air Sampling

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to address concerns raised by the community for the potential volatilization (evaporation) of contaminants from groundwater moving into indoor air, a process called vapor intrusion. As a result of a series of meetings between EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Del Amo Action Committee and community members, and their independent technical advisor, Dr. James Wells, we are moving forward to find out if vapor intrusion is occurring.

We are requesting permission from residents in specific areas of the Harbor Gateway neighborhood to collect indoor air samples in 2015. There is no cost to owners or tenants for this sampling. The sampling will be used to find out if there is a buildup in homes of the contaminant trichloroethylene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), through vapor intrusion, from the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund sites (Sites).

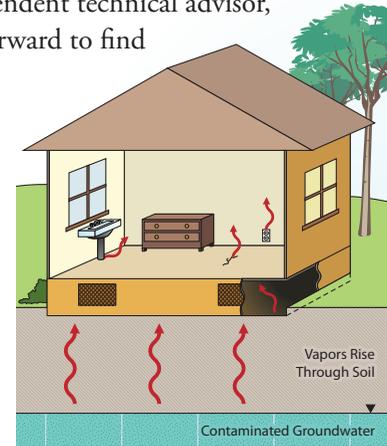


Figure 1: Vapor intrusion is a process where vapors from underground contamination migrate into the indoor air of overlying structures, such as homes or commercial buildings.

VOCs and Vapor Intrusion

TCE, benzene, and monochlorobenzene are types of VOCs found at the Sites that can move as vapors from the groundwater through soil under certain conditions. These underground VOCs are a product of contamination from the Sites, as well as from the past activities of several companies that once operated in the area northwest of the Sites. Since the 1990s, the companies responsible for the pollution have worked to develop and construct a treatment system to clean up and contain contaminated groundwater. As part of this effort, a groundwater treatment system (located on Normandie Avenue at West 204th St.) was built and is scheduled to be operational in 2015.

Why Are You Sampling Now?

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 (see Figure 1). If this happens at high enough levels, it may create a health risk for those breathing indoor air. Recent scientific studies for TCE have led EPA to take more protective measures to test for and minimize the risk of vapor intrusion.

Furthermore, EPA has learned vapor intrusion levels can vary throughout the year, and that the most accurate time to measure the greatest potential for VOC buildup is during the winter months. Based on these developments, EPA has decided to evaluate homes in the Harbor Gateway community for vapor intrusion.

As such, EPA is asking residents for permission to sample indoor air in homes in February 2015 to confirm that EPA's new, lower standards for TCE and VOCs exposure are not being exceeded.



Figure 2: Sampling Areas

How Does EPA Do Sampling?

Sampling usually requires two 30-minute home visits. During the first visit, EPA will explain how household products and everyday activities (like using your heater or opening windows) can affect indoor air quality. EPA will place 1-2 small air samplers in the breathing zone (3-6 feet above the floor) to collect the samples in the house. Other samplers may be placed in the crawl space beneath the home and in the outdoors. If the home does not have a crawl space, EPA may request specific permission to drill a pencil-sized hole in the floor to take samples underneath the home. During the second visit, EPA picks up the samplers, and then sends them to an EPA-approved lab for analysis. In four to five weeks, EPA will contact the residents and/or landowners with the results, and discuss any potential follow-up steps.



Typical sampling equipment (3")

How Can I Sign Up?

EPA has prioritized two residential sampling areas for the vapor intrusion investigation. If you live outside the residential sampling areas and are interested in participating, please contact EPA. Outside these areas, EPA may sample as resources allow.

Please check to see if you are within the project area on the map above. If so, please contact EPA representatives Yarissa or Alejandro (contact information on opposite side) to schedule an appointment. **Before EPA can take any samples, we need written permission from the property owner and the resident.**