



Request for Indoor Air Sampling & Community Meeting

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • December 2014

Triple Site, Sunnyvale, California

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting permission from certain residents in the Duane/San Miguel Avenue neighborhood to collect indoor air samples this winter. There is no cost to owners or tenants selected for this testing, which EPA would like to conduct within the next few weeks. This sampling is part of a study of the potential for vapor intrusion (a process where vapors from groundwater contamination may migrate into the indoor air). As a precaution, EPA would like permission from owners of residences to test their indoor air to determine if there is a buildup of trichloroethene (TCE).

TCE and Vapor Intrusion

The main chemical of concern in this investigation is TCE. TCE is a type of volatile organic chemical (VOC) which can move as vapors from groundwater 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 (See Figure 1). If this happens, and if the levels of VOCs are high enough and prolonged enough, it may create a health risk.

TCE is present in the groundwater due to historical semiconductor and other electronics manufacturing operations from the early years of Silicon Valley (dating back to the 1960s). Since the 1980s, the parties responsible for the environmental cleanup have been conducting activities to contain and clean up TCE in the shallow groundwater.

What Has Already Been Done?

Indoor air sampling has already been conducted at the Montessori school buildings on Duane Avenue because these buildings are over the highest concentration in groundwater. Results from this testing show that levels of TCE are very low, and protective of children's health. The good news so far is that air testing at homes in another Sunnyvale neighborhood this past year (for a similar TCE cleanup site) showed no evidence of vapor intrusion.

Why Sample Again?

This past year EPA strengthened its protective levels for TCE, due to new information about potential cancer risks related to TCE exposure. New levels that would warrant an accelerated EPA response were also developed for short-term risks, including organ problems in babies whose mothers were exposed during the first trimester of pregnancy.

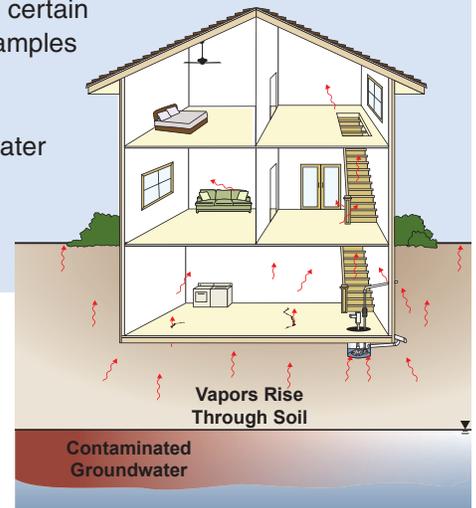


Figure 1: Vapor intrusion into a residence

Community Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th, 2014
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

San Miguel Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
777 San Miguel Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA

Agenda

6:30 Sign in, Poster Sessions

7:15 Welcome & Introduction – Enrique Manzanilla, EPA Division Director & John Lyons, EPA Asst. Division Director

7:30 Indoor Air Sampling Update – Melanie Morash, EPA Project Manager

7:40 Open Discussion/ Question & Answer

8:00 Meeting Adjourn



Note: Your drinking water does not come from groundwater in this area. Neighborhood drinking water comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

EPA has learned more about how vapor intrusion can vary throughout the year. This is why EPA is planning to sample at schools and residences this fall and winter to confirm that EPA's health protective levels for TCE exposure are not being exceeded.

The "Triple Site"

Informally known by the collective term "Triple Site", the site includes three groundwater TCE sites – the Advanced Micro Devices 901/902 Thompson Place Superfund Site (AMD 901/902 Site), the Philips (formerly Signetics) Site (Philips Site), and the TRW Microwave Superfund Site (TRW Site).

The Triple Site also includes the area of the neighborhood outside these facilities' property boundaries, which has been impacted by TCE-containing groundwater from the three source sites. This area includes the neighborhood around Duane/San Miguel Avenue to just past Highway 101 to the north (Lakehaven Drive), and between the Sunnyvale East Drainage Channel on the west and San Miguel Avenue on the east (see map). Concentrations of TCE in the shallow groundwater in this part of the neighborhood are elevated above the acceptable level of 5 micrograms per liter (ug/L).

What Happens Next

EPA is looking to sample residential units within the sampling area shown below. Please contact Melanie Morash, EPA Project Manager or Alejandro Diaz, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator if you would like your home sampled. Please call (or e-mail) and leave a message with your name, telephone number, mailing address and/or e-mail address and the best time to reach you.

If your home is selected, sampling will be conducted during the colder, winter months and involves placing a sampling device in the home (for example, on a shelf or counter) and in the crawl-space beneath the home over a 24-hour to 2-week period. EPA's goal is to conduct two sampling events spaced several weeks apart and can work with residents on their preferred sampling time. EPA will notify each resident individually of the results within a few weeks after the testing. If levels exceed EPA's health-based screening levels, EPA will present options to each resident as to how to proceed. EPA will also distribute another fact sheet to the neighborhood in early 2015 that summarizes the results of this investigation and next steps for the community.

Who Do I Contact If I Would Like My Home Sampled?

Please contact any of the following if you would like your home sampled:

Melanie Morash
EPA Project Manager
(415) 972-3050
morash.melanie@epa.gov

Alejandro Diaz
EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
(415) 972-3242
diaz.alejandro@epa.gov

Visit EPA's website for more information on the Triple Site: www.epa.gov/region9/triplesite

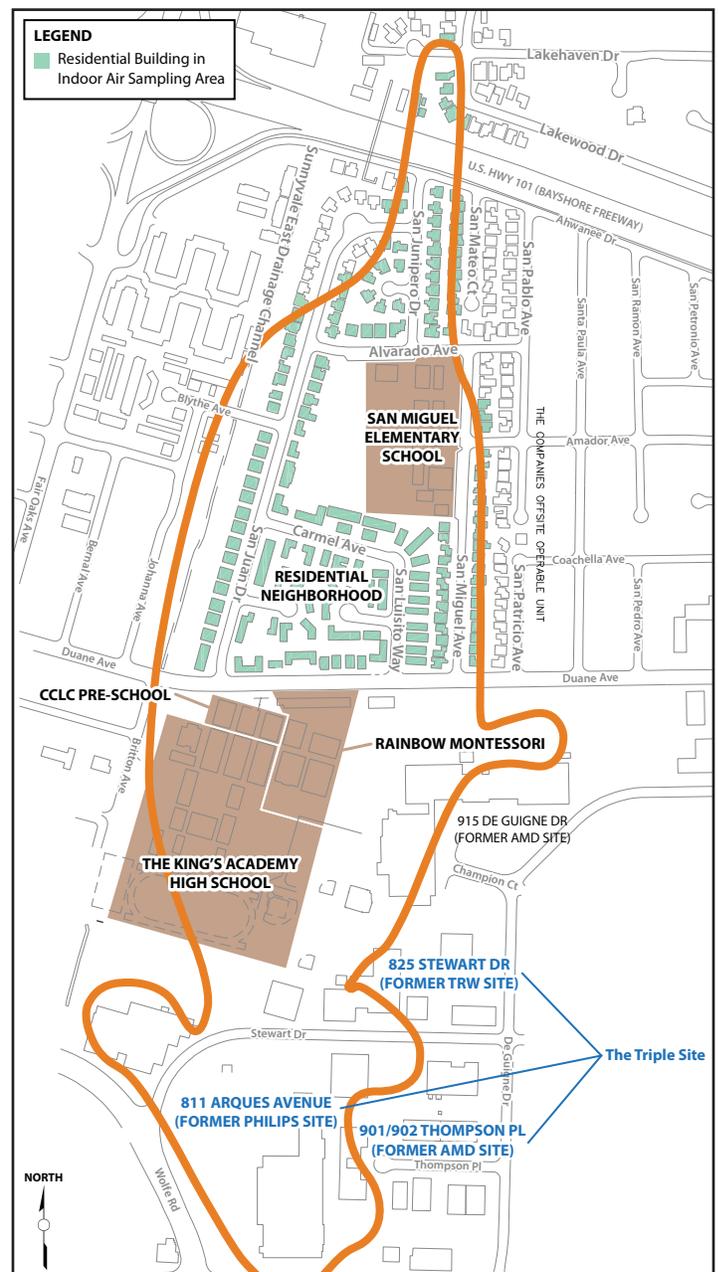


Figure 2: Indoor air sampling area. Approximate extent of TCE contamination above 5 micrograms per liter (µg/L) in shallow groundwater (around 10 ft).