

Sayre/South Waverly HSCA Investigation Update

August 4, 2020

For background information on this investigation, please see the DEP Northcentral Regional Office Community Information page at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/North-central-Regional-Office/Community-Information/Pages/Sayre-HSCA-Investigation.aspx>.

DEP has received and analyzed the results of the second round of groundwater and soil gas sampling conducted in March 2020 for the Sayre and South Waverly Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) Investigation. The constituents of concern included trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethane (PCE), which were utilized in many types of manufacturing processes. The results of the sampling were compared to indoor air screening levels to determine whether there is the potential for risk to human health due to contaminants migrating from the groundwater or soil gas into homes.

The groundwater sampling results collected in Sayre and South Waverly Boroughs all met the screening criteria, indicating that potential indoor air risk is below the state-established risk-based health standards for protection of human health.

The majority of the soil gas sampling results collected in Sayre Borough also met the screening criteria. However, a small number of sample points exceeded the conservative screening levels, indicating a potential that the contaminants could enter indoor air in homes. In order to determine whether human health is actually at risk and ensure that the citizens of the commonwealth are protected, the next step in the investigation will be to collect samples of indoor air from a select number of homes located adjacent to the sample points that exceeded the screening levels. Letters have been sent to the residents from whom we will request approval to sample inside their homes.

DEP is committed to keeping the community updated on the progress of the Sayre/South Waverly HSCA investigation. This and future updates will be posted on the DEP Northcentral Regional Office Community Information page at <https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/North-central-Regional-Office/Community-Information/Pages/Sayre-HSCA-Investigation.aspx>.