

## HSCA RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT

INTERCOURSE TCE  
LEACOCK TOWNSHIP  
LANCASTER COUNTY  
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

HSCP Project Officer: Crystal Snook

September 15, 2005

### PURPOSE

This report summarizes the technical and legal issues which justify a response under the Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA), Act of October 18, 1988, P.L. 756, No. 108, 35 P.S. Sections 6020.101-6020.1305 for the Intercourse TCE Site.

### SUMMARY OF FACTS

The Intercourse TCE Site (Site) is located in Leacock Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Site is found on the USGS 7.5 minute topographic map for the New Holland, Pennsylvania, quadrangle. The site coordinates are approximately 40° 02' north latitude and -76° 06' west longitude. Groundwater in at least 15 residential wells has been found to be contaminated with trichloroethylene, also referred to as TCE. These homes are in and around the town of Intercourse.

At the present time, a source of the TCE groundwater contamination has not been identified. The total area encompassed by the groundwater contamination has not been determined at this time. The Department sampled groundwater supply wells in September 2004 and January 2005 and EPA sampled in June 2005. The sampling yielded TCE contamination in fifteen residential wells above the groundwater Statewide Health Standard for TCE. The TCE levels ranged from 5.72 ppb to 110 ppb. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE is 5 parts per billion (ppb).

### RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

The source of the TCE groundwater contamination has not been determined. Therefore there currently are no recognized Responsible Parties in accordance with Section 701 of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, Act of 1988, P.L. 756, No. 108, 35 P.S. § 6020.101 *et seq.*

## FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY TO ACT

Sampling by the Department and EPA discovered that at least fifteen residential potable water supplies had levels of TCE in their wells greater than the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 parts per billion (ppb) for drinking water.

TCE is a hazardous waste as defined under the Solid Waste Management Act, July 7, 1980 (P.L. 380, No. 97, *as amended*), 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 *et seq.*, and a hazardous substance as defined under Section 103 of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, Act of 1988, (P.L. 756, No. 108), 35 P.S. § 6020.101 *et seq.* The residents are exposed to this compound through ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact. TCE is listed as a probable human carcinogen.

Based upon the facts:

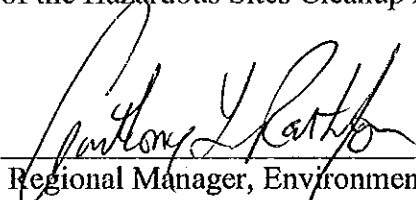
- a) A release or threat of a release of hazardous substances as defined by the Pennsylvania Hazardous Site Cleanup Act ("HSCA") has occurred.
- b) This release or threat of release threatens both human health and the environment by multiple exposure pathways. The Department is authorized to undertake a response action at this site under Section 501(a) of HSCA, Act 108, the Act of October 18, 1988, 35 P.S. Section 6020.501(a).

## REFERENCES

- Water Supply Correspondence, dated 10/08/2004

## DEP APPROVAL

Based on the facts and findings outlined in this Response Justification Document, further investigation or response action is deemed appropriate, pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.

  
Regional Manager, Environmental Cleanup Program

  
Date

## **Snook, Crystal**

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**From:** Shoup, Richard  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2004 9:11 AM  
**To:** Rathfon, Anthony  
**Cc:** Mehaffie, George; Horvath, Kathleen; Zellers, Corey; Nesmith, Rodney  
**Subject:** INTERCOURSE GROUNDWATER SURVEY

We are now in receipt of analysis forms for the 10 samples (plus 2 blanks) that were collected from domestic water supply wells in Intercourse, PA, on September 21, 2004. These samples were collected at the request of George Mehaffie, for the purpose of clarifying groundwater quality conditions, to assist with the review of a Public Water Supply Permit Application for a proposed CPWS south of Intercourse. There is also a Cleanup Program investigation in Intercourse, currently centering on the Getty Mart. There were, I believe, problematic detections of TCE both in the test wells for the Permit Application, and in (and around) the Getty Mart Cleanup site.

I was requested to send you the analysis reports, and they are in the mail. I wanted to send you as well a summary of the findings.

Of the 10 sites sampled, 9 had detections for VOCs. Of the 9 VOC positives, 7 had TCE. The 2 locations with the most TCE were on Queen Rd., closest to the Getty Mart. Those 2 sites and one on Evergreen St. had TCE above the 5 ppb. MCL for TCE. TCE ranges were 11.3 ppb. to 1.88 ppb.

One site had 5 different VOCs detected. It was also one of the locations on Queen Rd., and is an operating hair salon. 537 Program tells me that there are public sewers in Intercourse, but we do not know how long the location has been a hair salon, and waste chemicals may have been disposed there prior to installation of public sewers.

3 sites had detections of very small amounts of chloroform, source unknown. One of these sites was the hair salon, and one was a doctors office that I believe is on on-lot sewer.

There was t-butyl alcohol detected in 3 samples and one of the blanks. The only thing these 4 samples had in common was the use of a commercially-prepared, 5 ml. HCl fixative ampoule.

First thing next week we will advise the 10 residents of the results of the survey, provide info from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and information about home-sized water treatment.