



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

**Intercourse Groundwater Contamination Site
Public Meeting
Oct 17, 2013, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Pequea Valley High School Auditorium, Kinzers**

Intercourse Municipal Water Supply

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be holding an open house and public meeting to discuss the construction of a public water supply system as a response to address groundwater contamination in the Leacock Township area.

BACKGROUND

In the summer of 2004, elevated levels of trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical commonly used as a solvent to degrease metal, was discovered in two public water supply wells that had been recently drilled for a residential subdivision.

From September 2004 to January 2005, DEP and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted extensive testing throughout the village which showed 42 out of 190 samples having elevated levels of TCE greater than 5 parts per billion (ppb). A value of 5ppb is the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE in public water supplies and the Statewide Health Standard for groundwater cleanup.

DEP promptly responded by providing bottled water or treatment systems for residents with contaminated wells in April 2006. Twelve water treatment systems were installed on homes that had five times the acceptable level for TCE. Bottled water was also offered to any home with TCE levels above the MCL.

Starting in September 2006, re-testing of previous locations was completed by Groundwater Environmental Services, as well as testing new locations in October 2006. Both rounds of testing revealed additional wells with elevated TCE levels.

Additional rounds of residential testing were conducted in July 2007 and May 2008 for all wells that had initially showed elevated levels of TCE. The results showed some wells that had rose in levels of TCE, but most tests had not changed.

Of the 360 total properties sampled from 2004 through 2008, TCE was detected in well water at 150 properties. Except for a development that has installed a treated community water supply, residents in the area rely on private wells for their water supplies.

Investigations in potential source areas did not conclusively identify a responsible party for the groundwater contamination. This means that response actions associated with containment, source area removal or source area treatment could not be implemented.

NEXT STEPS

Due to the extent of the groundwater contamination, it has been recommended and approved by both DEP and Leacock Township that a new public water system will be installed to provide water to residents within the contaminated area. This installation will include installing the water distribution infrastructure and the lateral water line from the curb into each residence and connecting this line into the home water distribution system. In addition, the township has chosen, at their expense, to expand the water system to the entire village growth area.

PROCESS

Affected residents have been mailed a questionnaire and a self-addressed stamp envelope. Residents are encouraged to complete that questionnaire and mail it in the envelope that was provided. This information will better allow DEP to connect the future water supply with current home water distribution systems.

AVAILABILITY

Copies of documents pertaining to this site have been included in the Administrative Record and are available for review at DEP's regional office, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110, and the Leacock Township Building, 3545 West Newport Road, Intercourse, PA 17534.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Those who are **unable** to attend the public meeting but have questions or wish **to provide written information** regarding the water supply system may submit the information to Steve DeMars, Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Redevelopment, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110, or email sdemars@pa.gov.

Each written comment must contain the following:

- 1) Name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the comments,
- 2) Identification of the proposed action (Intercourse Municipal Water Supply), and
- 3) Concise statements regarding the relevancy of the information or questions to the public water supply system.