

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER
regarding
VAPOR MITIGATION ACTIVITIES
at the
RADIO MATERIALS CORPORATION (RMC) SITE
1095 East Summit Street
Attica, Indiana

Background

The RMC Site is located at 1095 East Summit Street. RMC began conducting manufacturing activities at this location in 1948. RMC operations included the manufacture of ceramic components, such as capacitors and resonators for the electronics industry.

In 2002, Kraft Foods entered into a Remedial Investigation and Action Agreement with RMC under which Kraft Foods agreed to undertake certain investigation and remediation activities at the site. Although Kraft Foods never owned or operated RMC and did not contribute to the conditions at the site, Kraft Foods is working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to complete the appropriate environmental investigations and clean-up activities at the site.

Through its consultant, Kraft Foods has performed environmental investigations since 2003 with U.S. EPA approval. These investigations have included extensive soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and air studies both on and around the RMC property. Investigation activities completed to date have identified certain chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), primarily trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (Perc or PCE), present in the soil, groundwater, and soil gas on the site property and to the north and northwest of the site.

Indoor Air Sampling Work

Under certain conditions, the VOCs present in the soil and groundwater may result in the potential for vapors to enter and accumulate in enclosed indoor spaces. This process is called "vapor intrusion". Kraft Foods submitted an

Indoor Air Sampling work plan that was approved by U.S. EPA on March 13, 2008. The purpose of the work described in that March 2008 work plan was to determine if the indoor air in residences to the north or northwest of the site had been impacted by vapor intrusion.

The March 2008 Indoor Air Sampling Work Plan identified certain residences where indoor air sampling was to be performed if access agreements could be obtained from owners. Kraft Foods obtained access agreements, completed indoor air sampling at 57 residences, and provided the residents and property owners the analytical data from the indoor air sampling activities.

Beginning in December 2008, in an area to the north and northwest of the site, Kraft Foods offered to install indoor air treatment systems at no cost to residents or property owners. The purpose of installing the indoor air treatment systems was to reduce the concentrations of PCE and TCE in the residences while Kraft Foods and U.S. EPA developed the final plans for controlling potential vapor intrusion into residences. To date, Kraft Foods has installed over 90 indoor air treatment units in residences located within the sampling area.

Next Steps

Kraft Foods submitted a Work Plan to U.S. EPA that describes the final actions to reduce the potential for vapor intrusion into residences. These final actions may include the installation of improvements designed to reduce potential vapor intrusion into affected residences. The improvements to a residence to reduce vapor intrusion are called "vapor mitigation measures". The work plan describes the

process for deciding whether vapor mitigation measures are necessary at a particular residence and, if vapor mitigation measures are necessary, the type of vapor mitigation measures to be installed. U.S. EPA approved the work plan on February 23, 2010.

Whether vapor mitigation is necessary and the type of vapor mitigation measures to be installed at a residence depends on the concentration of vapors present at the residence as a result of vapor intrusion. Whether PCE and TCE vapors are present in a residence due to vapor intrusion depends on a number of factors, including the type of construction (for example, whether the residence is built on a basement, crawlspace, or slab).

The analytical results for the indoor air, crawl space air, and sub-slab vapor samples collected for each residence will be compared to site-specific action levels that were approved by U.S. EPA. Residences where the analytical data are below the site-specific action levels will not require vapor mitigation measures. The action levels are chemical-specific and are used to determine whether mitigation measures should be implemented to address the potential for vapor intrusion. At residences where vapor mitigation measures are needed, the appropriate vapor mitigation measures will be selected based on the analytical data for that residence and a separate design for each residence will be prepared. A different design is needed for each residence because the construction of the residences in the area varies so much.

The design for each vapor mitigation measure will follow U.S. EPA and ASTM International guidance. After installing the vapor mitigation measures, at least two additional indoor air samples will be collected at each residence to confirm that the measures are working.

You have received this newsletter because your residence is within the study area. If your residence has not been sampled yet, we will need to test and inspect your residence to determine if vapor mitigation measures are needed and, if so, what type of vapor mitigation measures are appropriate.

A signed access agreement from the owner will be required to gain access to perform sampling and inspection activities and to install vapor mitigation measures. The existing agreements that have been signed by many of the residents may be sufficient for some or all of these activities. If you have not signed an access agreement, one will be provided to you and it must be signed and returned before work can proceed.

For More Information

Documents containing specific information on the Site have been placed in a public document repository in the Attica Public Library.

Attica Public Library
305 South Perry St.
Attica, IN 47918
Tel: 765-764-4194
<http://www.attica.lib.in.us>

Interested people also may contact the following individuals for more information:

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