

Diamond Chrome Plating Trichloroethylene (TCE) Vapor Intrusion and Outdoor Air Emission Investigation Site Update and General Information

Background

Diamond Chrome Plating (DCP), located at 604 S. Michigan Ave. in Howell, uses a chemical called trichloroethylene, or TCE, in its manufacturing operations, specifically for removing grease from metal parts. There is a concern that TCE has moved from DCP into the outdoor air and into nearby buildings. TCE in the environment at certain levels may cause a health risk.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) recently requested that DCP address compliance issues identified with its new degreaser. The degreaser operations and handling of TCE must be done in a way that keeps TCE from exiting the building into the outdoor air. TCE was found in the outdoor air which indicated the degreaser is not operating properly. DCP has turned the degreaser off and is exploring other options.

Public Information Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2019

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Parker Middle School

400 Wright Road, Howell, MI

(entrance off County Road D19)

DCP's ongoing environmental investigation also found TCE and related chemicals in groundwater and in soil above allowable amounts in sewer line corridors beyond its property. Some of these sewer lines lead into buildings, including homes.

TCE Exposure and Your Health:

Having TCE exposure does not mean you will necessarily have health issues now or in the future. A person's risk of developing health effects depends on how much TCE they breathe, how long they breathe it, and how their body reacts to it.

Animal studies have been done to learn how TCE might affect people. There have also been studies of workers exposed to high levels of TCE. These studies show that TCE may lead to certain health effects.

- Breathing TCE during pregnancy may cause heart defects in the developing fetus.
- Breathing TCE for a long time may affect the immune system.
- Breathing TCE over a lifetime can increase the risk of developing kidney cancer.
- There is also some evidence that TCE might increase the risk of developing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (a type of blood cancer) or liver cancer.

Response Activities

- EGLE, with the support of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD), is working to evaluate the health risks of DCP's releases of TCE into the air.

- DCP has a signed consent decree with EGLE. A consent decree is a legally enforceable voluntary settlement that contains a compliance program to resolve alleged air quality violations to ensure they are not repeated.
- DCP collected indoor air samples from inside three homes northeast of the plant and soil gas samples from under the homes beginning in March 2019. The amount of TCE in the indoor air was higher than the health-based screening levels. As there was a health concern from the indoor air levels, MDHHS and LCHD requested air purifying units be installed in all three homes as a precaution until the source of the TCE could be determined. DCP complied with this request.
- Since then, EGLE and DCP have continued the investigation of indoor air, soil gas, sewer gas, outdoor air, and roof vents on DCP's building in order to determine the source(s) and extent of the TCE contamination. DCP had taken some steps to minimize TCE from exiting the building.
- EGLE, MDHHS, and LCHD received multiple results on November 13, 2019, from outdoor air samples. These results showed TCE levels higher than health-based screening levels within the neighborhood to the northeast of DCP.
- The LCHD, in collaboration with MDHHS and EGLE, issued a public health order to DCP on November 18, requiring DCP to: 1) stop TCE emissions, 2) demonstrate that the actions taken have stopped emissions, and 3) cooperate with LCHD, MDHHS, and EGLE.
- EGLE is continuing to collect and evaluate outdoor air data. The U.S. EPA is assisting EGLE with collection of air samples in the area of concern.
- In partnership with EGLE, the MDHHS and LCHD continue to evaluate and address DCP's TCE release.
- Further communication will be provided to the community as more information becomes available.

For more information

Health-Related Questions:

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Hotline
800-648-6942

Livingston County Health Department
517-546-9850

Environmental Testing and Regulatory Compliance Questions:

EGLE Environmental Assistance Center
800-662-9278

Michigan's Environmental Justice Policy promotes the fair, non-discriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan's residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies by this state. Fair, non-discriminatory treatment intends that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or low-income populations, will bear a disproportionately greater burden resulting from environmental laws, regulations, policies, and decision-making. Meaningful involvement of residents ensures an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.