



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Cathy Akroyd
Phone: (919) 508-8438

SAMPLING RESULTS NEAR FORMER CTS SITE TO BE DISCUSSED DURING EPA HEARING

RALEIGH – State and federal officials will discuss initial results from wells sampled in the vicinity of the former CTS site in Asheville during a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Skyland Fire Department.

The hearing, held by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will address current activities at the Mill's Gap Groundwater Contamination site in Skyland. Officials with the EPA, the N.C. Division of Waste Management, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and Buncombe County Environmental Health Services will provide information and answer questions about recent sampling related to the site and an enforcement update.

Environmental sampling has indicated the subsurface beneath the electroplating plant is contaminated with the chemical compound trichloroethylene (a.k.a. trichloroethene or TCE) as well as petroleum products. In 1999, TCE was discovered in nearby springs and one residential drinking water well. Two separate companies – IRC Inc. and CTS Inc. – ran electroplating operations on this site from 1952 to 1986.

Starting in late November and ending in mid-December 2007, the EPA, the N.C. Division of Waste Management and Buncombe County Environmental Health Services collected samples from 66 residential wells located within one mile of the former CTS site at 274 Mills Gap Road in Asheville. Sixty-one of the samples had no detection of any of the 68 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) analyzed.

Of the remaining sampling sites, three residential wells had very low levels of chloroform detected in them, and one residential well had a trace amount of chloromethane detected in it. Both compounds are commonly detected in wells that have been disinfected with chlorine bleach. The analysis for one residential well detected toluene, a common solvent used in paint thinners and paint removers. All of these detections are below federal guidelines for the maximum amount of contaminant levels allowable in public water supplies. None of these contaminants are currently associated with the chemicals used at the former CTS of Asheville site.

The analysis of one residential well detected TCE and cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (c-1,2-DCE). TCE is a common solvent and c-1,2-DCE is a chemical produced during the natural decomposition of TCE. EPA officials immediately supplied this resident with bottled water.

On Jan. 8, 2008, remaining wells in the vicinity of this well were sampled. One additional residential well had levels of TCE and c-1,2-DCE detected; however, both levels were below the federal guidelines for the maximum contaminant levels allowable in public water supplies. Though topography and geology of the area suggest that the TCE detected in these two wells is not related to the CTS site, state officials have not confirmed that at this time. DWM staff plans to sample soil this week to further evaluate the source of this contamination.

The public meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Skyland Fire Department, 9 Miller Road, Skyland. Community members interested in obtaining additional information should Sherryl A. Carbonaro, EPA community involvement coordinator, at (678) 575-7355; or Cathy Akroyd, public information officer at the Division of Waste Management, (919) 508-8438.

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