

EDITORIAL

TCE/PCE Contamination Hits Home



In February, several Illinois towns including Lisle/Woodridge, Naperville and Downers Grove, faced the reality of well contamination from trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE), industrial solvents and possible carcinogens used to remove grease from fabricated metal parts. With a quote of up to six months needed for a geology study to find the sources, these towns faced long-lasting decisions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists the TCE limit at 5 parts per billion (ppb). Nine wells in the Naperville area reportedly were contaminated with six of them showing levels of more than 100 ppb. Almost half of the wells tested in the Downers Grove area also showed levels of contamination above the standard.

It was suggested that the plumes in the various locations have different sources. "That is based on the presence of other contaminants or perhaps the presence/absence of decay products in one plume vs. the other," said Mark Rowzee, education director for the Water Quality Association (WQA). Test results indicated that a former missile site and an industrial park could be two of the sources. While waiting to discover the results for cleanup, residents will need temporary or permanent fixes.

Residents on private wells will be given the options of bottled water, POE filtration or city hook up (not available in some areas). "Removal of TCE can be accomplished by air stripping or activated carbon units," said Tom Palkon, laboratory director at the WQA. "It is important to understand that different levels of TCE require different treatment techniques. The levels I have seen in Naperville and Downers Grove are fairly low. These levels easily can be reduced below EPA requirements with the use of activated carbon." Rowzee added that some of the wells may be treated with carbon filtration systems.

Chloroform testings also have been done, Palkon explained. "It is done because it can be used as a surrogate for many organics. TCE is one of the organics that will be removed from water if the filter demonstrates removal capabilities of chloroform." A list of POE units that have been tested for chloroform reduction may be found at www.wqa.org or www.nsf.org.

Some residents will have the opportunity to pay to have a hook up to city water—an expense that many residents want to avoid. Rowzee concluded that in some areas, once a city hook up is initiated, residents will be required to seal off their wells.

This was one example of a news story where your expertise in water treatment will prove as a valuable resource to reporters. Read "Community Awareness" on page 28 for more ideas on how to promote your company on a local level.

Best Wishes,

Wendi Hope King
wqpeditor@sgcmail.com
www.waterinfocenter.com

WATER QUALITY PRODUCTS

Scranton Gillette Communications, Inc.
380 E. Northwest Hwy, #200, Des Plaines, IL 60016-2282
Telephone 847/298-6622 FAX 847/390-0408

EDITORIAL STAFF

wqpeditor@sgcmail.com

Wendi Hope King Editor
wking@sgcmail.com

Dan Soltis Associate Editor
dsoltis@sgcmail.com

Natalie W. Ferguson Copy Editor
nferguson@sgcmail.com

MANAGEMENT

Ken Hughes Group Publisher
khughes@sgcmail.com

Adrienne Miller Sales/Marketing Associate
amiller@sgcmail.com

ADVERTISING SALES

National Sales Office
Scranton Gillette Communications, Inc.
380 E. Northwest Hwy, #200, Des Plaines, IL 60016-2282
Telephone 847/298-6622 FAX 847/390-0408

Don Heidkamp National Sales Manager
dheidkamp@sgcmail.com 847-391-1047

Pat Barrett Regional Sales Manager
pbarrett@sgcmail.com 847-391-1051

Donna Aly Classified Ad Sales Manager
sgcclass@aol.com 480-941-0510, ext. 13

ADVERTISING ORDERS

ads@sgcmail.com

Erica Rivera Traffic Coordinator
erivera@sgcmail.com

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

sgcproduction@sgcmail.com

Scott Figi Production Manager
sfigi@sgcmail.com

INTERACTIVE MEDIA GROUP — INTERNET

Hal Gillette Group Publisher
hgillette@sgcmail.com

CORPORATE

H.S. Gillette Chairman/CEO

S.G. Schultz President

E.S. Gillette Vice President Sales

K.S. Gillette Secretary

C. Peterson Director of Human Resources

C. Rebello Controller

L.L. Lambdin, CCP Director of Circulation

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Cammack Alamo Water Refiners, Inc.

Guillermo Guzman H2O International

Dr. Alan Leff National Testing Labs, Ltd.

Wes McGowan Wes Max Consulting, Ltd.

Roger Miller Osmonics

Daniel Noble Environmental Business
International

