

# FACT SHEET



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Sunset Avenue Investigation

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

(317) 234-9536 • (800) 451-6027

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

#### **Background Information:**

- Past investigations by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) revealed concentrations of vinyl chloride (VC) and cis-1,2-dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-DCE) in a residential area near the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Lilac Court in Elkhart, IN.
- VC and cis-1,2-DCE are both breakdown products of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE).
- These contaminants, as well as other chlorinated solvents, are utilized in various industries for processes such as degreasing, and are commonly used in dry cleaning operations. VC is used to make PVC piping and other plastic products.

#### **Next Steps:**

- In late April 2017, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will be using direct-push drilling equipment to obtain groundwater and soil samples from various locations within and around the Sunset Avenue area.
- Groundwater samples will also be collected from private wells at residences within the site area. These samples will be collected directly from outside spigots, if available, and this process will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete at each residence.
- IDEM staff will need to contact businesses and residents to request permission to collect groundwater samples from their private property.
  - Property owners who are asked to aid in this investigation will be asked to sign a property access agreement.
  - The sampling will be conducted at no cost to the property owner.
  - IDEM will provide the property owners with their groundwater sampling results at no cost.

#### **Environmental and Health Impacts:**

- VC and cis-1,2-DCE may evaporate quickly from shallow soils or may filter through the soil and into the groundwater below.
- VC and cis-1,2-DCE enter the body through inhalation from industrial areas and hazardous waste sites, and can also be ingested through contaminated water.
- Based on evidence that VC causes cancer in animals, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) considers VC to be a probable cancer causing chemical in humans. Cis-1,2-DCE has not yet been classified as a human carcinogen.
- The U.S. EPA specifies a concentration limit of 2.0 µg/L for VC and 70 µg/L for cis-1,2-DCE in drinking water.

#### **Additional Information:**

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the Sunset Avenue Site, including information on sampling results to date and environmental impacts of VC and cis-1,2-DCE, to Abbey Neff, IDEM Project Manager, at (317) 234-9536; toll free at (800) 451-6027; or by e-mail at [aneff@idem.IN.gov](mailto:aneff@idem.IN.gov).
- Questions and concerns about health-related impacts should be directed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (800) 232-4636 or the Elkhart County Health Department at (877) 523-2283.
- For a copy of ToxFAQs™ for VC and cis-1,2-DCE, visit the ATSDR website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts20.pdf> and <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts87.pdf>.
- The news media may contact Barry Sneed, IDEM Public Information Officer, at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8596; or by e-mail at [bsneed@idem.IN.gov](mailto:bsneed@idem.IN.gov)