

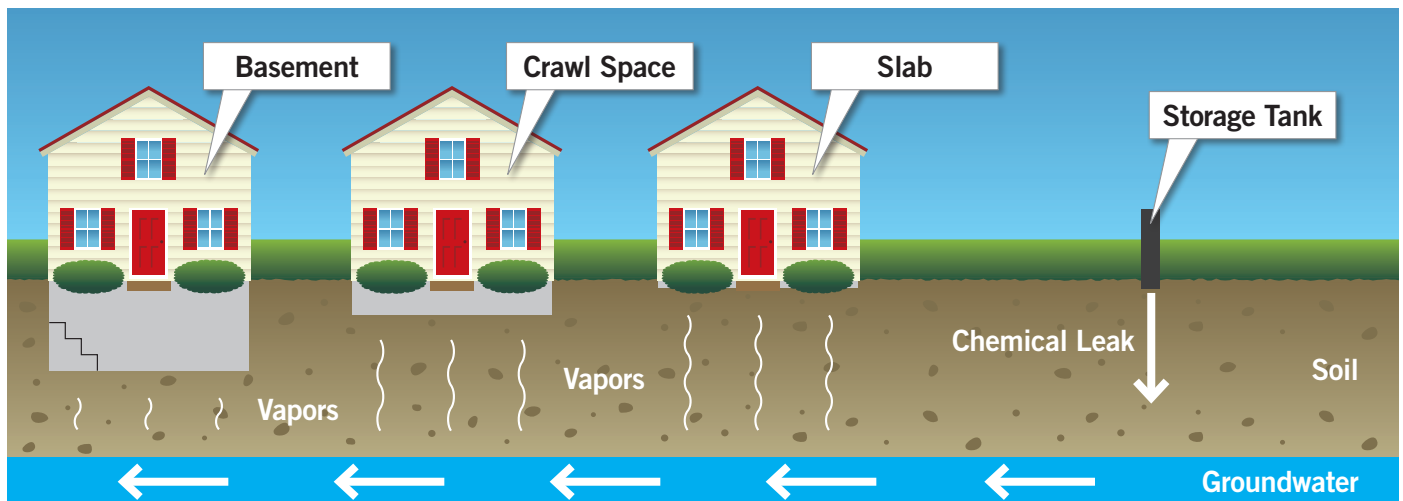


Vapor Intrusion Investigation

Groundwater contamination at and near the Former General Motors Stamping Plant at 340 South White River Parkway West Drive, Indianapolis

The Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust (RACER), in cooperation with The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), is planning to conduct a vapor intrusion investigation in your community. The vapor intrusion investigation will involve collecting indoor air samples at residential homes.

The vapor intrusion investigation is necessary to ensure that groundwater contamination from the Stamping Plant site is not affecting the indoor air quality in homes.



What is vapor intrusion?

“Vapor intrusion” refers to the vapors produced by a chemical that has been spilled or leaked and has entered into the ground. The chemical may seep into the groundwater and be carried away from the spill site.

Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are the group of chemicals that cause vapor intrusion. VOCs in

groundwater may release vapors into the surrounding soil. The vapors can travel through soil and could enter buildings through cracks or other openings in a building’s foundation.

Recent groundwater testing has determined that VOCs released from an area on the former GM site have affected the groundwater flowing beneath your

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neighborhood. This has created a narrow area of contaminated groundwater underneath several homes in your community. The groundwater is approximately 15–20 feet below the ground surface.

What chemical is being investigated?

Trichloroethylene, also known as “TCE,” is the main VOC of interest in this investigation. TCE is a solvent that is used in industrial settings and common household items.

Please understand that the public drinking water is **not** contaminated. The drinking water in your community comes from a public water supply and is treated by Citizens Energy Group to ensure that it is safe to drink.

What is the method used in a vapor intrusion investigation?

Before the vapor intrusion investigation is conducted, RACER representatives will meet with you to discuss what steps need to be taken so that the most accurate and up-to-date information is gathered. This will include looking at your household products that might currently be contributing VOCs to the indoor air. These items will need to be temporarily removed before the air sample is taken.

The individuals collecting the samples will do what they can to make the testing as least disruptive as possible. They will collect the air samples in a collection tank in the basement, crawlspace or first floor of your property. The tank will need to be inside your property for only a day or two.

After the samples are analyzed at a lab, RACER will provide you with the results. If it appears that vapor intrusion is occurring, we will provide qualified individuals to help you understand the results. RACER, under IDEM’s supervision, would take measures to stop or prevent any current and future exposures.

What if vapor intrusion is found?

Once the investigation is completed, environmental professionals will review indoor air results, the toxicity of the chemicals found, if any, and other factors while they evaluate the implications of these results. They will talk with you about the levels of TCE that were found.

If it is determined that vapor intrusion is taking place at your home, the most common solution is to install a radon mitigation system, which prevents gases from entering the building.

Can I get sick from vapor intrusion?

The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits, habits, and whether other chemicals are present. For information on health questions about vapor intrusion of TCE, call the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at 1-888-422-8737 or visit the ATSDR website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov. The ATSDR, a public health agency that is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for determining whether people experience harmful effects from exposure to hazardous substances.

Whom can I contact for more information on this investigation?

To learn more about the vapor intrusion investigation, contact:

RACER: Robert Hare, Indiana Cleanup Manager • (855) RACER411 • rhare@racetrust.org

IDEM: Doug Griffin • (317) 233-2710 • dgriffin@idem.in.gov