



UNLEY ASSESSMENT AREA Community update

Issued Friday 28 April 2017

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is undertaking environmental works in Unley, in an assessment area bounded by Charles Lane, Little Charles Street, Mary Street and Tyne Place.



Coldstream Refrigeration premises - photo courtesy State Library of South Australia, photographed by Ron Praitte 1984

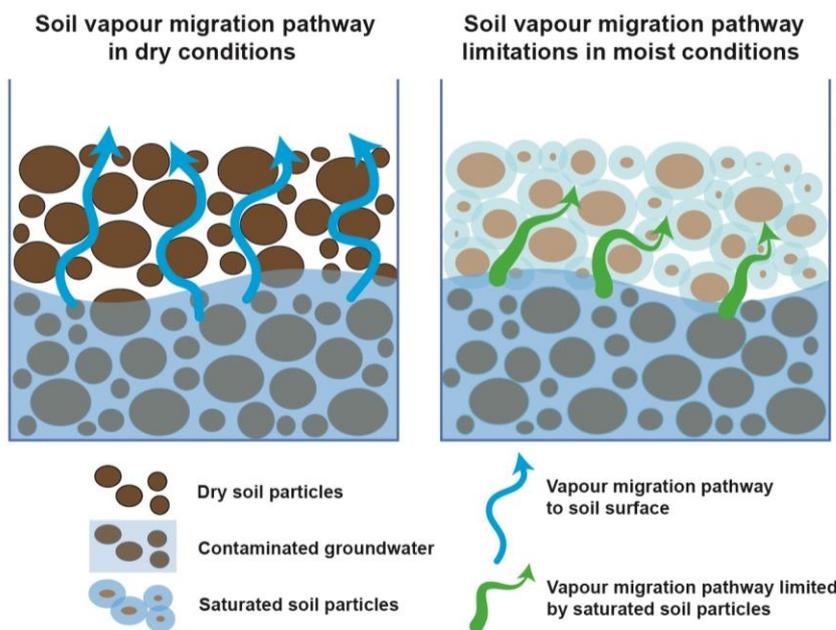
Historical activities in Unley

South Australia has a proud manufacturing history and some chemical disposal and handling practices in these industries, that were considered appropriate at the time, are no longer acceptable by today's environmental standards. Certain chemicals found in groundwater can cause health problems if people are exposed to high enough concentrations over long periods of time.

In 2016, the South Australian Government invested \$7.8 million over four years for the EPA to manage legacy orphan sites. An orphan site is where the original polluter no longer exists, cannot be found or identified, or is unable to carry out or pay the costs of the assessment or remediation that is required.

Historical land uses in the Unley assessment area are believed to be refrigeration manufacturing, furniture manufacturing, cabinet making, boot making and a drapery. The EPA is undertaking work in the Unley assessment area to ensure that the legacy of past industrial practices does not pose a risk to residents living there today.

Soil vapour migration



It has long been understood that volatile chemicals can be transported in groundwater. More recently it has been discovered that they can also be found in the air spaces between soil particles as vapour.

In the rare instance that a home is affected by soil vapour intrusion, the EPA works with residents to assist them with managing any risk. Many areas with groundwater contamination pose no or very low risk of soil vapour intrusion and are considered to be safe. In other areas simple precautions can prevent vapour build-up, such as increasing the flow of fresh air from outside to inside or below a house (opening doors and windows, clearing blockages away from vents and sealing skirting gaps). Where there is significant vapour intrusion a ventilation system can be installed.

In order to determine whether soil vapour intrusion is occurring in the Unley assessment area, the EPA is undertaking works to gather more data to understand the composition of the soil vapour, and whether any additional assessment works are required. Works are being undertaken in road verges and are not required to be on private properties.

Works schedule

The installation of 22 temporary bores containing soil vapour samplers will commence in May and be in-situ for approximately 10 days.

The bores will be installed with a hand auger and covered with a temporary plastic lid. They will take around 45 minutes at each location and then after 10 days the sampler is removed and the bore refilled with soil.

Results are expected to be analysed and communicated to residents by July 2017.



Please do not use bore water

Ground water (bore water) in this area should not be used for any purpose.

Home grown vegetables safe

Soil, rainwater, and mains water are not affected. Home grown vegetables are safe to consume, provided you are not watering them with bore water.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For **further information** please contact:

Site Contamination Branch

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004

Email: EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

(Follow the link at the bottom to Site Contamination then to Assessment Areas to find the Unley page.)

For **health** related information please contact:

Scientific Services Branch

Public Health Services, SA Health

11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000

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