

RALPH BECKER
Mayor



Dear Salt Lake City Resident,

Mayor Ralph Becker and the City Council want to keep you apprised of activity in your area related to potential tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination that may remain from decades-old dry cleaning operations centered near 2100 South and 2100 East.

Contaminated deep groundwater was first identified in 1988 at a Salt Lake City Well located in Sugar House Park. That well and one other Salt Lake City well in the vicinity have since been taken out of production. Based on the discovery of PCE in deep groundwater, several investigations have been conducted to identify the source and extent of contamination and to determine the level of risk posed. The site is sometimes referred to as the Sugar House Park Plume Site.

In May 2014, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a re-assessment of the site and concluded that PCE contamination had impacted groundwater, soil and indoor air in the area.

Representatives from the City, DEQ and EPA met in June 2014 to discuss the site and alternatives regarding further investigation, risk analysis and remediation. At that meeting the City requested that the EPA perform additional investigations to provide data so that potential risks can be identified.

In 2009, the EPA conducted indoor air sampling on certain homes in close proximity to the dry cleaners, and your home may have been included in that sampling event. The 2009 sampling results showed that there were PCE vapors accumulating beneath the foundation slabs of several homes. However, no homes showed indoor air concentrations of PCE that would trigger a health concern. EPA believes it is necessary to conduct another round of sampling to ensure that conditions have not worsened, putting residents at risk.

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The EPA is planning to perform the additional indoor air sampling in mid-November 2014 at locations that could be impacted by PCE vapors. These initial sampling locations were chosen based on the previous investigations. The EPA has contacted those selected for initial sampling.

The EPA will use the data to assess health risks that could be due to the PCE contamination. If health risks are identified, then the EPA, DEQ and City will determine what additional actions should be taken. Options may range from no-action if risks are not identified to further investigation, soil removal, the installation of indoor vapor extraction systems, "Superfund" listing options or immediate action if the PCE levels are high enough to cause significant health effects.

At this time, no contaminated water sources are being utilized by the City and culinary water in use by residents in this area is not at risk.

Mayor Becker and the Council will continue to keep you current on this work and the findings of agencies involved in the investigation. To ensure that all of your questions are answered, we will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at Dilworth Elementary, 1953 S. 2100 East. City, DEQ and EPA representatives will be available to answer your questions at that time.

Please note that this meeting is not intended for discussion of potential zoning changes in the 21st and 21st neighborhood. While the City recognizes this is an area of concern for residents, there will be other opportunities for dialogue on that issue.

Regards,

Mayor Ralph Becker
Salt Lake City Council