BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS	)	
FOR POTABLE WATER WELL	)	R06-023
SURVEYS AND FOR COMMUNITY	)	(Rulemaking – Public Water)
RELATIONS ACTIVITIES PERFORMED	)	
IN CONJUNCTION WITH AGENCY	)	
NOTICES OF THREATS FROM	)	
CONTAMINATION UNDER P.A.94-134	)	
	)	
NEW PART 35 ILL. ADM. CODE 1505	)	

TESTIMONY OF ANN MUNIZ

My name is Ann Muniz and I am a citizen who has been directly affected by groundwater contamination and non-notification. My private well was contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Local public community wells had been abandoned nearly ten years earlier because of the same contaminants, but because no one was "required" to notify nearby private well owners, hundreds of households were needlessly exposed to the contamination. Thankfully, bills have now been passed and non-notification should no longer be an issue. I helped initiate the community group that later became known as the Downers Grove Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG). I am still a board member of the CAG. I also participated in the Right-to-Know Committee and the South Chicago Heights/Steger project. I am not a good public speaker, so my initial participation was behind the scenes. Although I am still not a good speaker, my desire to make sure another community does not endure the ordeal we went through has caused my exposure to increase. The following is a brief summary of my story.

In the fall of 2001, hundreds of private wells in unincorporated DuPage County were tested by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) as a result of an ongoing investigation to determine the extent of groundwater contamination east of Interstate 355. In late September and early October, hundreds of residents received a telephone call from the IEPA and a letter from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that advised them to seek an alternative source of water for drinking, cooking and bathing because their wells were contaminated with TCE and/or PCE, which exceeded the state and federal standards. This call also advised residents to run the fan or have a window open when bathing or showering because the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that were contaminating the wells become airborne when passing through the aerator on their faucets. The lifestyles of those affected changed instantly with that call. Over the next few months, hundreds of other residents received letters from IDPH. Bottled water sales and deliveries increased in our area as a result.

My private well was tested on September 12, 2001. My call and letter came in late September. (See attached exhibits) I learned that my water posed a health risk to my family if we continued to use it in the manner to which we were accustomed. Our lifestyle as we knew it changed with that one telephone call—even bathing posed a health risk from inhalation of the VOC. At that time, my son was 13 and my daughter was 11 months. They had bathed in the water, drank the water and swam in the water. I was shocked--I had never heard of a volatile organic compound let alone trichloroethylene. I immediately went out and purchased bottled water. Because we were told bathing posed a risk, I began heating bottled water to bathe my daughter in the kitchen sink.

On October 11, 2001, the IEPA, DuPage County, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry, the Water Quality Association of Lisle, the IDPH, and Village of Downers Grove held a Public Availability Session to provide residents with information regarding the contamination. (See attached exhibits) In addition to the handouts available, some residents also learned that public community wells located nearby had the same contaminants and were sealed in 1992 when Lake Michigan water began flowing in DuPage County. Although the levels of contamination in the raw groundwater exceeded the federal standards known as maximum contamination levels (mcl), the wells were apparently never considered out of compliance because the water was "blended" with water from other wells and the end product no longer exceeded the five parts per billion (ppb) mcl standard. After the wells were sealed, the matter was dropped. Private well owners in the area were never notified of the contamination.

After being informed about the contamination, separate community groups began to form and residents began calling to see how to go about connecting to Lake Michigan water or finding out the other alternatives available to them. Some of the residents signed on to connect, some residents could not afford the amount of funds required to connect right away and inquired as to other options available to them. Some residents purchased whole house filtration systems, others were told an activated charcoal filter would remove the VOCs, and others approached Downers Grove to ask if they could provide low interest loans to those who could not afford to connect. Although I purchased a filter, I was part of the latter group and met with the Village Manager. Downers Grove refused connection loans, but offered to defer payment of the service fees. They referred us to the County because we were not part of the Village. That is when I first became exposed to the

intricate politics of DuPage County and Lake Michigan water. It is also when I began to educate myself concerning groundwater and private wells.

We initially faced three main obstacles in obtaining a safer water source. One was the lack of infrastructure (water mains) in a small area of about 54 homes. The second problem was that many residents could not afford the amount of immediate funds necessary to connect to Lake Michigan water (ranging between $5,000 and $23,000). Although our wells results showed contamination exceeding the 5 ppb mcl, we were told our numbers weren't high enough for federal funding. We were also told that the source of the contamination was not known and the likelihood of finding the source of the contamination was slim. Therefore, we began seeking funding or loans on our own. The third problem was that many residents did not feel that annexation into an incorporated village should be required when they controlled the only alternative source of a safe water supply--Lake Michigan water. We felt that a health issue existed and we had nothing to do with our well contamination and did not appreciate forced annexation as a result of something out of our control.

In response to the contamination in Lisle and Downers Grove, the governor requested that a Governor's Action Team (GAT) be formed under the direction of the IEPA to address the groundwater contamination issues in DuPage County. This task force was to consist of the IEPA, the USEPA, the Illinois Attorney General's office, the States Attorney's Office, the IDPH, state and federal elected representatives, DuPage County representatives, and representatives from the municipalities involved. Because individual residents and groups continued to request information, the CAG was formed at the request of the IEPA as a means for the GAT to interact with the communities, but through two

separate groups—those contaminated by Lockformer and those contaminated by sources yet to be determined. I attended each GAT meeting as a CAG officer, but only the first portion of the meetings because CAG representatives were not allowed to attend the entire meeting and were asked to leave the second portion of the meetings. This was one of many instances where we were not allowed to participate or even listen to the decision making process regarding our properties and wells. In fact, I was told by a county employee that I elected officials to represent me and they would decide what was best for me—that's how politics work.

Over the next several months, I attended many meetings and became somewhat educated in DuPage County politics—not by choice, but by necessity. I attended multiple municipal meetings (six different villages), Water Commission meetings and DuPage County meetings. I met with my legislators, senators, political representatives, Lisa Madigan (who was not yet Attorney General), and even a public relations person supplied by the County. I learned about campaign contributions and that a simple phone call from a well-known lobbyist to an elected official can quash the several dozen letters from constituents. I've been slandered, misquoted and quoted out of context. I went to Springfield and met with politicians about the need for laws concerning water contamination and testified about the need for notification bills. And finally, I learned that many local politicians would not listen to our CAG until we hired an attorney to represent us. I had no idea that water was such a precious commodity or that politicians and egos had to be handled delicately.

Our first obstacle was solved when state and federal funding was given to provide infrastructure to those residents who did not have water mains in front of their homes

(again, this involved a small group of approximately 54 homes on two streets). The third obstacle was solved when Village officials finally did not require annexation as a prerequisite to obtain water.

The CAG constantly requested assistance from the DuPage Water Commission and attended every meeting for several months. Because they were not permitted to give us loans directly, the Water Commission agreed to extend 2% loans to the municipalities, who would in turn pass the loan on to affected residents. These loans were to be interest only payments during the first five years and interest and principal payments for 15 years thereafter. However, through later discussions in 2003 (again, the residents were not allowed to participate) between the County, Downers Grove, the Water Commission, the PRPs and the USEPA, the PRPs, the companies responsible for polluting our wells, were given the 2% loans to finance the connections of the residents. As part of the agreement, the PRPs insisted that an ordinance be passed requiring everyone to seal their wells and connect to Lake Michigan water. The County obliged and the ordinance was passed. Again, I attended meetings to request that the County notify the residents who would be affected. Although our CAG had reached a membership of well over 400 households at that time, there were approximately 900 households that would be affected by the ordinance. The County utilized the tax records to notify the residents and it was horrible. The letters went to the owners of record, not the occupants of the homes. Thus, some letters went to banks, some letters went to registered agents of the home owners, some letters went to the addresses listed for trusts, etc. A whole section of homes were missed and I kept getting complaints from residents that they did not receive notice. The County

complained that they got calls from people who said the letters did not apply to them. I personally received three letters because my property involves three parcels of land.

I was connected to Lake Michigan water in October 2003, after my well pump went bad. In order to obtain the water, I had to sign an agreement drafted by the PRPs and approved by the USEPA and Downers Grove. Initially, the PRPs drafted an agreement that prohibited any resident from suing them for any reason. The CAG had to group together and refuse to sign the document. The document was changed, but still tried to require the residents to give up certain rights. We were told the entire deal might fold if we didn't sign it as rewritten, so we had no choice. We could not access water without signing it, so we signed it. Also initially, the PRPs refused to pay the service fees to Downers Grove. However, the connection process was completed under budget (but not up to Code) and the companies agreed to pay the municipal service fees, again utilizing the 2% loans. Although I was thankful to be connected to Lake Michigan water, the trip to accomplishing this left me bitter. Everyone was congratulating the PRPs for "stepping up to the plate," when actually the deal benefited them legally and financially. They got to borrow millions of dollars at 2% interest and tried to prevent our group from filing suit for certain damages. I don't feel they stepped up to the plate—I believe the bottom line spoke and they couldn't pass up the excellent deal that we handed to them on a platter. Also, the fanfare and back patting that took place afterwards were a farce. All the politicians were there to say, "Look what I did for these people!" when I believe it was the residents, members of the CAG and various employees of agencies and organizations that forced the issues.

When I was asked if I wanted to participate in the Right to Know Committee, I jumped at the chance. Because we were excluded from so much, I wanted to express our perspective, frustrations, etc. When discussing notification procedures for the South Chicago Heights/Steger site, I relayed our experience in using tax records for notification and gave suggestions that were offered by members of the CAG. Many of our residents "fell through the cracks" when tax records were used for notification, which is why we requested utilizing another method of obtaining correct names and addresses. Some of the methods utilized for providing notices (postcards, door hangers, etc.) were thrown away as junk mail by some of our residents. Although I understand the wording regarding notification of occupants, I must reiterate the importance of contacting the occupants of homes and agree with Ms. Dinschel's prefiled testimony. With regard to the letterhead, we suggested the health department because of the circumstances surrounding our contamination. A definite lack of trust had been established by all the other agencies/entities, but health concerns affect everyone and people are more likely to read it. As far as having the PRPs send out notifications, our PRPs tried to force the residents to sign something that would have given up their rights to file suit against them. While all PRPs may not be so deceitful, trusting the companies believed to have contaminated your property to do "the right thing" must be strictly monitored.

Although I've previously made decisions and judgments that didn't affect me personally, I have to say this ordeal has given me a new perspective. I worry whether the exposure to TCE and PCE will be harmful to my family, especially my children. I don't take everything for granted and I certainly do not believe everything I read in the newspapers. I don't blindly trust political officials to pass laws to protect me. In fact, I

don't believe I trust any political officials except maybe two that I've dealt with personally. I also try to understand and educate myself regarding a situation before passing judgment. I now believe strongly in citizen participation and allowing citizens to be heard.

I have tried to remain involved through the process of getting this bill passed and the various stages involved in doing so. I have made comments regarding the language and the rules. I believe this law was long overdue and support the proposed rules.

This concludes my testimony.

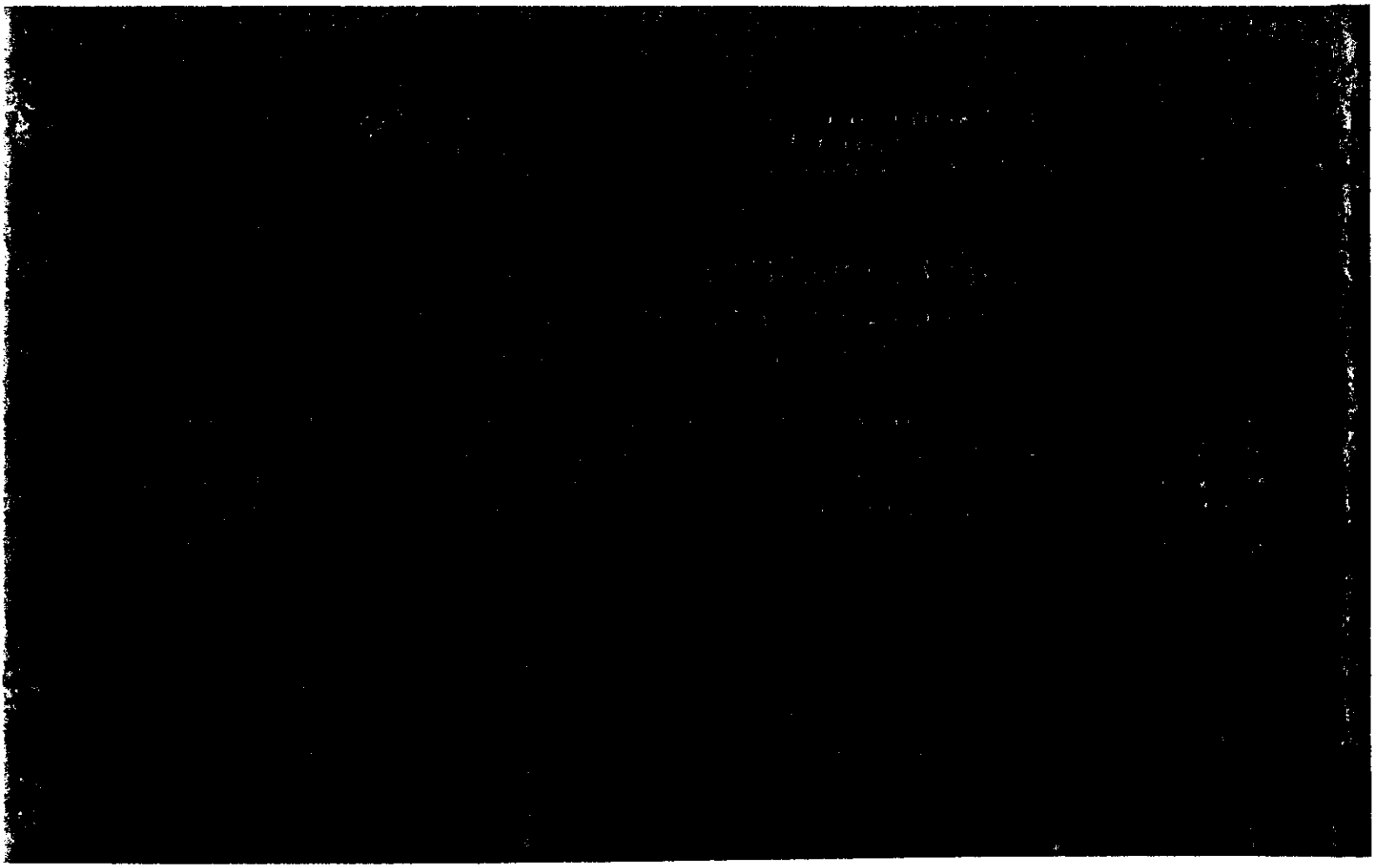
Respectfully submitted,

Ann Muniz
5617 Pershing Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516-1138
(630) 663-1275

May 9, 2006

LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. Notice from IEPA regarding well testing that was taped to my storm door
2. Notice from IEPA that my well had been tested (also taped to my door)
3. Letter from IDPH regarding my well sampling results
4. First IEPA Fact Sheet dated August 2001
5. Notice of First Public Availability Session – October 11, 2001
6. Letter from IDPH handed out at Public Availability Session
7. Information regarding TCE
8. Information regarding PCE
9. Fact Sheet from ATSDR regarding exposure
10. Fact Sheet No. 2 from IEPA
11. Letter from IDPH regarding lack of funding
12. Letter from DuPage County stating federal did not require public notification
13. Letter from Patti Bellock regarding first notification bill
14. First letter from County regarding connection ordinance



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

WELL HAS BEEN SAMPLED

The private well located at 5617 Pershing, Downers Grove, IL

was sampled by representatives of the Illinois EPA on 9-12-01

The analytical results will be mailed to this address by the Illinois Department of Public Health in approximately 35 days. If you have questions feel free to phone Carol Fuller, Community Relations Coordinator for this project, at 217/524-8807.

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

Illinois Department of
Public Health

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

#906140101H

September 28, 2001

Edward & Anne Muniz
5617 Pershing Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60516-1138

Dear Resident:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has received the laboratory results of the well water sample collected at your home on 9/12/01 and analyzed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Your water was analyzed for 34 volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). The results of the analysis of your water sample showed the following VOCs:

Chemical	Level Detected (in ppb)	MCL (in ppb)
trichloroethene	5.52	5
tetrachloroethene	1.3	5
1,1,1-trichloroethane	0.948	200

ppb = parts per billion, or microgram of chemical per liter of water
MCL = maximum contaminant level -- enforceable level established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for public water supplies to reduce the chances of adverse health effects from contaminated drinking water

Based on these results, we recommend that you use an alternate drinking water supply or install a water treatment unit designed to remove VOCs. This unit should be certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) in accordance with NSF standard number 53.

Three chemicals, 2-butanone, acetone and methylene chloride, were detected in the laboratory blank sample. These chemicals are common laboratory contaminants and may be marked with a "B" on your sample sheet. This means that the values reported for these chemicals are likely false positives and were not actually in your water sample. If you have any questions or require any additional information, feel free to contact us at 217-782-5830.

Sincerely,

Ken Runkle
Toxicology Section

cc: Joe Dombrowski, IEPA, IDPH West Chicago Regional Office, DuPage Co. Health Department

Prairie Analytical Systems, INCORPORATED

	IEPA Sample No.: G-416
IEPA SDG. No.: Not Available	SITE NAME: Downers Grove GW Invt.
Lab Name: Prairie Analytical Systems, Inc.	Batch No.: ICL-129
Matrix: Aqueous (DW)	Lab Sample ID: CR0109120600
Analytical Method No.: 524.2 Rev. 4.0	Lab File ID: 091901\1701016
Extraction Procedure No.: 524.2 Rev. 4.0	Date Received: 12 Sep 01
% Solids: 0.0	Date Extracted: 20 Sep 01
Dilution Factor: 1	Date Analyzed: 20 Sep 01

Analyte	Conc.	Q	C
Chloromethane	µg/L	0.50U	
Bromomethane	µg/L	0.50U	
Vinyl Chloride	µg/L	0.50U	
Chloroethane	µg/L	0.50U	
Methylene Chloride	µg/L	B	0.589
Acetone	µg/L	B	0.813
Carbon Disulfide	µg/L	0.50U	
1,1-Dichloroethene	µg/L	0.50U	
1,1-Dichloroethane	µg/L	0.50U	
1,2-Dichloroethene (total)	µg/L	0.50U	
Chloroform	µg/L	0.50U	
1,2-Dichloroethane	µg/L	0.50U	
2-Butanone	µg/L	0.50U	
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	µg/L		0.948
Carbon Tetrachloride	µg/L	0.50U	
Bromodichloromethane	µg/L	0.50U	
1,2-Dichloropropane	µg/L	0.50U	
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	µg/L	0.50U	
Trichloroethene	µg/L		5.52
Dibromochloromethane	µg/L	0.50U	
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	µg/L	0.50U	
Benzene	µg/L	0.50U	
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	µg/L	0.50U	
Bromoform	µg/L	0.50U	
4-Methyl-2-pentanone	µg/L	0.50U	
2-Hexanone	µg/L	0.50U	
Tetrachloroethene	µg/L		1.30
1,1,2,2-Tetracloroethane	µg/L	0.50U	
Toluene	µg/L	0.50U	
Chlorobenzene	µg/L	0.50U	
Ethylbenzene	µg/L	0.50U	
Styrene	µg/L	0.50U	
Xylenes (total)	µg/L	0.50U	
MTBE	µg/L	0.50U	

9/27/01

Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of Community Relations
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

August 2001

Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation

Downers Grove, Illinois

Background

During the spring of 2001, the Illinois EPA began a groundwater investigation just east of I-355 near Downers Grove. This investigation is in response to citizen concerns related to recent private well sampling in neighboring Lisle. Results of a few samples in Downers Grove in May showed some solvent contamination in scattered wells. Consequently, Illinois EPA decided to initiate a separate investigation in Downers Grove to identify contaminated wells and potential sources.

The Illinois EPA collected samples from private water wells in unincorporated Downers Grove during the week of July 16, 2001. The results from theses samples constitute the first phase of the Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation. In this first round of sampling, approximately 160 wells, in three areas were analyzed for levels of solvent-type chemicals, known as volatile organic chemicals (VOCs).

What areas were sampled in the first round of the Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation?

Area 1) Elmore and Inverness generally bound the **main study area** on the north, Belmont on the east, 59th Street on the south and Walnut on the west.

Area 2) A second area is north of Burlington between Granville and Edwards, and generally extends about one block north and south.

Area 3) The third area tested is bounded by 63rd on the north, Main on the east, 67th on the south and Saratoga on the west.

What did the test results for the July sampling show?

The larger, main area (#1) shows that some wells contain tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE) and other related VOCs. Some wells in this area show PCE or TCE above the federal drinking water standards.

Sample results from the two smaller areas mentioned above (#2 and #3) were well below the drinking water standard or the chemicals of concern were not detected.

Do you know the source of the contamination?

No, we do not have enough information yet to identify the source(s) of contamination. We are conducting an area-wide investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination and possible source(s) of contamination.

What are the levels of VOCs in the main study area?	Of the approximately 100 samples in this area (#1), 34 results were greater than the federal drinking water standards for public water supplies, which are five parts per billion for both PCE and TCE. (Although these standards are not enforceable for private wells, Illinois EPA and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) use them as a comparison level regarding the safety of private water wells). Other VOCs were detected at lower levels.
Should well owners drink the water?	The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that owners of wells containing TCE and PCE at or greater than the standards not use their wells as a source of drinking water.
If contamination is found in my well, will the state force me to change over to a public water supply?	Neither Illinois EPA nor Illinois Department of Public Health would "force" a citizen to abandon a private well. IDPH will advise residents of any well contamination and make recommendations about changes in water use. Private wells are the domain of the well owner.
What adverse health effects are related to exposure to TCE or PCE?	Exposure to levels of TCE and PCE much greater than those levels found in Downers Grove area wells can cause nausea, dizziness or headaches. Exposure to low levels over long periods may lead to impaired immune system function and may increase the risk of kidney or liver cancer or other damage.
How can I reduce my exposure to TCE or PCE?	If your water contains TCE or PCE, you can greatly reduce your exposure by using another source of drinking water or by using water filtration equipment designed to remove VOCs. Since VOCs evaporate into the air, you can reduce your exposure by running the bathroom exhaust fan during baths and showers. Exposure to TCE or PCE from other water uses should be very small.
Should I install a filter system to remove this type of contamination?	Activated carbon or activated charcoal filtration whole-house systems effectively remove volatile organic chemicals such as PCE and TCE. A homeowner should look for systems that are ANSI-approved or NSF (National Sanitation Foundation)-approved. A source of information about water filtration systems is Water Quality Association of Lisle, 630/505-0160 at www.wqa.org
Where can I obtain information about connecting to the Downers Grove water supply?	Residents can obtain packets of information containing a pre-annexation agreement and Downers Grove water distribution specifications. Please call Dave Conley at 630/434-5462 or pick up the information at the Public Works Facility at 5107 Walnut.
What is the next step of the investigation?	The Illinois EPA is scheduling another round of testing of additional wells in the Downers Grove area in mid-September. In addition, an investigation is ongoing to try to determine the source or sources of the contaminants in these wells. The Illinois EPA will place notices on residents' doors in the proposed second study area on Wednesday, August 22, 2001 asking residents to contact the Agency if they want their wells tested.

For more information, you may contact:

Carol L. Fuller
Community Relations Coord.
Illinois EPA
217/524-8807
carol.fuller@epa.state.il.us

Maggie Carson
Public Information Officer
Illinois EPA
217/557-8138
maggie.carson@epa.state.il.us

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joseph.dombrowski@epa.state.il.us

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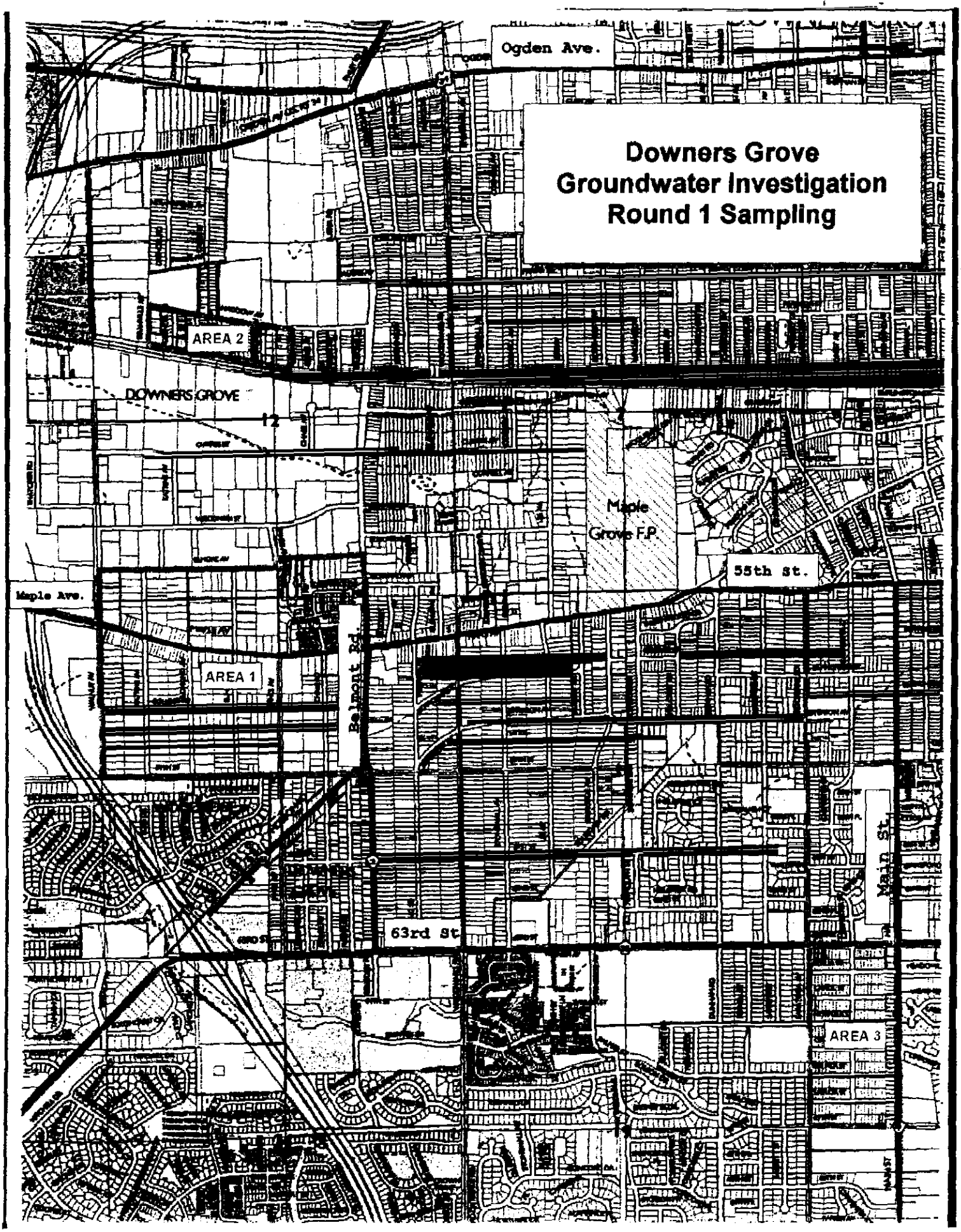


Downers Grove Township and Lisle Township Map

In order to give the citizens of the Downers Grove area an opportunity to meet with state and local officials to discuss the ongoing groundwater investigation in your area, we are holding a

Public Availability Session

Date: Thursday, October 11, 2001

Time: 2 Sessions – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Downers Grove Public Works Building, 5101 Walnut Avenue
(This is in the far western portion of Downers Grove, near I-355)

Participants:

Agency for Toxic Substances & Diseases Registry
Village of Downers Grove DuPage County
Illinois Department of Public Health Illinois EPA
Water Quality Association of Lisle

Format: Sessions will be an open house format, without formal presentations. Citizens may meet with representatives of each organization one-on-one, during either session and discuss issues of concern. The facility is handicap accessible.

History: In recent months, the Illinois EPA has been sampling water from private wells in the area for evidence of volatile organic compounds. These findings brought investigators to southwest Downers Grove. The primary goal of the current sampling efforts is to discover which residential wells are contaminated, the extent of contamination and possible sources of contamination.

Contacts: For additional information, please call or email:

Illinois EPA:
Carol Fuller
Community Relations Coord.
217/524-8807
Carol.Fuller@epa.state.il.us

Downers Grove:
Dave Conley
Water Dept. Manager
630/434-5472
dconley@vil.downers-grove.il.us

DuPage County:
Brad Jordan
Chief Water Operator
630/964-7207
bjordan@DuPage.com

Illinois Department of
Public Health

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

October 11, 2001

Dear Downers Grove Area Resident:

As the State of Illinois continues its investigation of groundwater in your area, we have prepared information to help answer health-related questions about the contaminants being found. After the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) collects your well sample and the laboratory tests your water, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will receive a copy of your results. IDPH will send you a letter that explains your results.

The two main contaminants are trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). TCE and PCE are part of a group of solvents known as volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). Attached are fact sheets that explain the health effects of exposure to TCE and PCE. Health effects depend on:

- the amount to which you are exposed
- how long you are exposed
- how frequently you are exposed

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for public water supplies. MCLs are designed to be protective of public health for long-term exposure and are below levels for which adverse health effects have been seen in people. IDPH uses MCLs for comparison to protect private well users from possible adverse health effects from long-term exposure to water with low levels of contamination.

If your well test result shows no contamination, you are not being exposed and we will not recommend any changes in your water use. If contamination is present, reducing your exposure is the best way to reduce the risk of adverse health effects. The main way to reduce your exposure is to use another source of drinking water. VOCs can enter the air mainly during showering and bathing. Another way to reduce your exposure is to use an exhaust fan or open a window during showering and bathing.

If you have any ***health-related questions***, please call our staff at 217-782-5830. If you have questions about sampling or the overall investigation, please contact Carol Fuller at Illinois EPA at 217-524-8807.

Sincerely,

Ken Runkle
Environmental Health Specialist

TRICHLOROETHYLENE

CAS # 79-01-6

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1997

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about trichloroethylene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. This information is important because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Trichloroethylene is a colorless liquid which is used as a solvent for cleaning metal parts. Drinking or breathing high levels of trichloroethylene may cause nervous system effects, liver and lung damage, abnormal heartbeat, coma, and possibly death. Trichloroethylene has been found in at least 852 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is trichloroethylene?

(Pronounced trī-klôr′ō-ĕth′ə-lēn′)

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a nonflammable, colorless liquid with a somewhat sweet odor and a sweet, burning taste. It is used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts, but it is also an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids, and spot removers.

Trichloroethylene is not thought to occur naturally in the environment. However, it has been found in underground water sources and many surface waters as a result of the manufacture, use, and disposal of the chemical.

What happens to trichloroethylene when it enters the environment?

- Trichloroethylene dissolves a little in water, but it can remain in ground water for a long time.
- Trichloroethylene quickly evaporates from surface water, so it is commonly found as a vapor in the air.
- Trichloroethylene evaporates less easily from the soil than from surface water. It may stick to particles and remain for a long time.
- Trichloroethylene may stick to particles in water, which will cause it to eventually settle to the bottom sediment.
- Trichloroethylene does not build up significantly in plants and animals.

How might I be exposed to trichloroethylene?

- Breathing air in and around the home which has been contaminated with trichloroethylene vapors from shower water or household products such as spot removers and typewriter correction fluid.
- Drinking, swimming, or showering in water that has been contaminated with trichloroethylene.
- Contact with soil contaminated with trichloroethylene, such as near a hazardous waste site.
- Contact with the skin or breathing contaminated air while manufacturing trichloroethylene or using it at work to wash paint or grease from skin or equipment.

How can trichloroethylene affect my health?

Breathing small amounts may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination, and difficulty concentrating.

Breathing large amounts of trichloroethylene may cause impaired heart function, unconsciousness, and death. Breathing it for long periods may cause nerve, kidney, and liver damage.

Drinking large amounts of trichloroethylene may cause nausea, liver damage, unconsciousness, impaired heart function, or death.

ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html

Drinking small amounts of trichloroethylene for long periods may cause liver and kidney damage, impaired immune system function, and impaired fetal development in pregnant women, although the extent of some of these effects is not yet clear.

Skin contact with trichloroethylene for short periods may cause skin rashes.

How likely is trichloroethylene to cause cancer?

Some studies with mice and rats have suggested that high levels of trichloroethylene may cause liver or lung cancer. Some studies of people exposed over long periods to high levels of trichloroethylene in drinking water or in workplace air have found evidence of increased cancer. However, these results are inconclusive because the cancer could have been caused by other chemicals.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that trichloroethylene is not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to trichloroethylene?

If you have recently been exposed to trichloroethylene, it can be detected in your breath, blood, or urine. The breath test, if it is performed soon after exposure, can tell if you have been exposed to even a small amount of trichloroethylene.

Exposure to larger amounts is assessed by blood and urine tests, which can detect trichloroethylene and many of its breakdown products for up to a week after exposure. However, exposure to other similar chemicals can produce the same breakdown products, so their detection is not absolute proof of exposure to trichloroethylene. This test isn't available at most doctors' offices, but can be done at special laboratories that have the right equipment.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a maximum contaminant level for trichloroethylene in drinking water at 0.005 milligrams per liter (0.005 mg/L) or 5 parts of TCE per billion parts water.

The EPA has also developed regulations for the handling and disposal of trichloroethylene.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set an exposure limit of 100 parts of trichloroethylene per million parts of air (100 ppm) for an 8-hour workday, 40-hour workweek.

Glossary

Carcinogenicity: The ability of a substance to cause cancer.

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.

Evaporate: To change into a vapor or gas.

Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.

Nonflammable: Will not burn.

ppm: Parts per million.

Sediment: Mud and debris that have settled to the bottom of a body of water.

Solvent: A chemical that dissolves other substances.

Source of Information

This ToxFAQs information is taken from the 1997 Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene (update) produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

Animal testing is sometimes necessary to find out how toxic substances might harm people and how to treat people who have been exposed. Laws today protect the welfare of research animals and scientists must follow strict guidelines.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop E-29, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone: 1-888-422-8737, FAX: 404-639-6359. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

TETRACHLOROETHYLENE
CAS # 127-18-4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQs September 1997

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about tetrachloroethylene. For more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at 1-888-422-8737. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical used for dry cleaning and metal degreasing. Exposure to very high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene can cause dizziness, headaches, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking, unconsciousness, and death. Tetrachloroethylene has been found in at least 771 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is tetrachloroethylene?

(Pronounced tĕt′rə-klôr′ ō-ĕth′ə-lēn′)

Tetrachloroethylene is a manufactured chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal-degreasing. It is also used to make other chemicals and is used in some consumer products.

Other names for tetrachloroethylene include perchloroethylene, PCE, and tetrachloroethene. It is a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor. Most people can smell tetrachloroethylene when it is present in the air at a level of 1 part tetrachloroethylene per million parts of air (1 ppm) or more, although some can smell it at even lower levels.

What happens to tetrachloroethylene when it enters the environment?

- Much of the tetrachloroethylene that gets into water or soil evaporates into the air.
- Microorganisms can break down some of the tetrachloroethylene in soil or underground water.
- In the air, it is broken down by sunlight into other chemicals or brought back to the soil and water by rain.
- It does not appear to collect in fish or other animals that live in water.

How might I be exposed to tetrachloroethylene?

- When you bring clothes from the dry cleaners, they will release small amounts of tetrachloroethylene into the air.
- When you drink water containing tetrachloroethylene, you are exposed to it.

How can tetrachloroethylene affect my health?

High concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (particularly in closed, poorly ventilated areas) can cause dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking, unconsciousness, and death.

Irritation may result from repeated or extended skin contact with it. These symptoms occur almost entirely in work (or hobby) environments when people have been accidentally exposed to high concentrations or have intentionally used tetrachloroethylene to get a "high."

In industry, most workers are exposed to levels lower than those causing obvious nervous system effects. The health effects of breathing in air or drinking water with low levels of tetrachloroethylene are not known.

Results from some studies suggest that women who work in dry cleaning industries where exposures to tetrachloroethyl-

ene can be quite high may have more menstrual problems and spontaneous abortions than women who are not exposed. However, it is not known if tetrachloroethylene was responsible for these problems because other possible causes were not considered.

Results of animal studies, conducted with amounts much higher than those that most people are exposed to, show that tetrachloroethylene can cause liver and kidney damage. Exposure to very high levels of tetrachloroethylene can be toxic to the unborn pups of pregnant rats and mice. Changes in behavior were observed in the offspring of rats that breathed high levels of the chemical while they were pregnant.

How likely is tetrachloroethylene to cause cancer?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that tetrachloroethylene may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen. Tetrachloroethylene has been shown to cause liver tumors in mice and kidney tumors in male rats.

Is there a medical test to show whether I've been exposed to tetrachloroethylene?

One way of testing for tetrachloroethylene exposure is to measure the amount of the chemical in the breath, much the same way breath-alcohol measurements are used to determine the amount of alcohol in the blood.

Because it is stored in the body's fat and slowly released into the bloodstream, tetrachloroethylene can be detected in the breath for weeks following a heavy exposure.

Tetrachloroethylene and trichloroacetic acid (TCA), a breakdown product of tetrachloroethylene, can be detected in the blood. These tests are relatively simple to perform. These tests aren't available at most doctors' offices, but can be performed at special laboratories that have the right equipment.

Because exposure to other chemicals can produce the same breakdown products in the urine and blood, the tests for breakdown products cannot determine if you have been exposed to tetrachloroethylene or the other chemicals.

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA maximum contaminant level for the amount of tetrachloroethylene that can be in drinking water is 0.005 milligrams tetrachloroethylene per liter of water (0.005 mg/L).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a limit of 100 ppm for an 8-hour workday over a 40-hour workweek.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that tetrachloroethylene be handled as a potential carcinogen and recommends that levels in workplace air should be as low as possible

Glossary

Carcinogen: A substance with the ability to cause cancer.

CAS: Chemical Abstracts Service.

Milligram (mg): One thousandth of a gram.

Nonflammable: Will not burn.

Source of Information

This ToxFAQs information is taken from the 1997 Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene (update) produced by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service in Atlanta, GA.

Animal testing is sometimes necessary to find out how toxic substances might harm people and how to treat people who have been exposed. Laws today protect the welfare of research animals and scientists must follow strict guidelines.

Where can I get more information? For more information, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Division of Toxicology, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop E-29, Atlanta, GA 30333. Phone:1-888-422-8737, FAX: 404-639-6359. ToxFAQs Internet address via WWW is http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html ATSDR can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Their specialists can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

Exposure

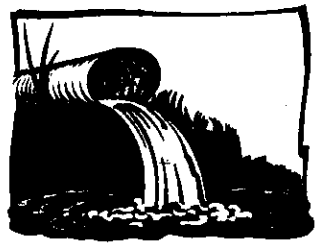
ATSDR is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. We are a federal health agency in Atlanta, Georgia. ATSDR gives people information about harmful chemicals in their environment and tells people how to protect themselves from being "**exposed**," or coming into contact with chemicals.

This Fact Sheet answers questions about chemical exposures.

What is exposure?

"**Exposure**" means that you have come into contact with a chemical, and it has gotten into your body.

How can an exposure happen?



For a chemical exposure to happen, there has to be a place where the chemical comes from. This place is called a **source.** A source could be a landfill, pond, creek, incinerator, tank, drum, or factory. There are many different sources of chemicals.

You could come into contact with a chemical at its source. Or, the chemical could move from its source to a place where you could come into contact with it.

Chemicals can move through air, water, and soil. They can also be on plants or animals, and get into the foods we eat. The chemical has to get into your body to make you sick, or to have an effect on your health.

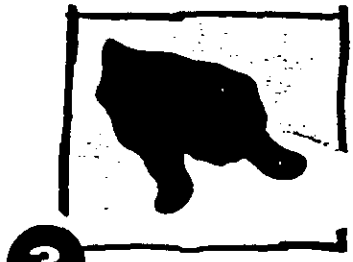
But if you are not ***exposed*** to a chemical,
it won't make you sick.

How does a chemical get into your body?

If you are exposed, there are three ways a chemical could get into your body. These are:

1 breathing air that has the chemical in it.

2 eating or drinking something with the chemical in or on it.



3 touching something that has the chemical in or on it.

If you are exposed to a chemical, will you get sick?

This depends on a lot of factors about the exposure.

- It depends on the way the chemical got into your body.
- It also depends on how much of the chemical got into your body. Sometimes, a small amount of a chemical could make you sick. Other times, you would not get sick from an exposure unless you were exposed to a large amount of the chemical.

Factors that play a part in whether you will get sick from a chemical exposure are:

- the **type** of chemical;
- the **amount** (how much of a chemical a person was exposed to);
- the **duration** (how long the exposure was); and
- the **frequency** (how many times the person was exposed).

Also, people respond to chemicals in different ways. Some people may be exposed to a chemical, but may not get sick.

Other people may be more sensitive to a chemical, and get sick from an exposure. (For example, children can be more sensitive to chemicals and may get sick more easily than adults.)

And some sicknesses would be caused only if you were exposed to a chemical for a long time.

But if you are not ***exposed*** to a chemical,
it won't make you sick.

If you have questions, or would like more information, call the ATSDR Information Center at: 1-888-42-ATSDR, that is, 1-888-422-8737. Or visit our website at "http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080."

Revised 1-99

Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of Community Relations
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

October 2001

Fact Sheet #2

Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation

Downers Grove, Illinois
Results of Round 2 Well Testing

Background

Illinois EPA continues to investigate groundwater contamination in the areas of unincorporated Downers Grove. During the week of September 10-13, Illinois EPA sample teams took 169 more private well samples. The samples were taken primarily in an area south of Maple Street and east of Belmont with a few samples north of Maple and some west of Belmont. See Area 4 (the new sampling area) and Area 1 on the attached map.

During the spring of 2001, the Illinois EPA began a groundwater investigation just east of I-355 near Downers Grove. This investigation is in response to citizen concerns related to recent private well sampling in neighboring Lisle. Results of a few samples in Downers Grove in May showed some solvent contamination in scattered wells. Consequently, Illinois EPA decided to initiate a separate investigation in Downers Grove to identify contaminated wells and potential sources.

The Illinois EPA collected samples from private water wells in unincorporated Downers Grove during the week of July 16, 2001. The results from theses samples constituted the first phase of the Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation. In this first round of sampling, approximately 160 wells, in three areas, were analyzed for levels of solvent-type chemicals, known as volatile organic chemicals (VOCs).

What areas of unincorporated Downers Grove did Illinois EPA sample in September (Round 2)?

During the week of September 10-13, 169 well samples were taken, primarily in the new Area 4 on the attached map (south of Maple and east of Belmont). Some samples were taken north of Maple and some in Area 1 west of Belmont.

What areas were sampled in July (Round 1) of the Downers Grove Groundwater Investigation?

Area 1) Elmore and Inverness generally bound this study area on the north, Belmont on the east, 59th Street on the south and Walnut on the west.

Area 2) A second area is north of Burlington between Granville and Edwards, and generally extends about one block north and south.

Area 3) The third area tested is bounded by 63rd on the north, Main on the east, 67th on the south and Saratoga on the west.

What did the test results for the most recent sampling show?

The larger area, Area (#4), shows that many wells contain tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE) and other related VOCs. Sixty percent of the wells in this area show PCE or TCE contamination above the federal drinking water standards.

Is the investigation in Downers Grove related to the ongoing investigation in Lisle?

The Illinois EPA is approaching the groundwater investigation in Downers Grove as a separate investigation. We have no information so far to connect it to groundwater contamination in Lisle. The results of two rounds of sampling in Downers Grove (July and Sept. 2001) show the presence of up to five chemicals, rather than primarily one chemical, trichloroethylene (TCE), found in the Lisle study.

Do you know the source of the contamination?

No, we do not have enough information yet to identify the source(s) of contamination. We are conducting an area-wide investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination and possible source(s) of contamination. Illinois EPA is investigating possible sources of contamination both by physically sampling the groundwater and by performing records searches and interviews with local businesses. We have sent information request letters to many local businesses.

What are the levels of VOCs in the main study area?

Of the approximately 270 samples in the main study areas (Areas #1 and #4) 140 results were greater than the federal drinking water standards for public water supplies - five parts per billion for both PCE and TCE. Other VOCs were detected at lower levels. (Although these standards are not enforceable for private wells, Illinois EPA and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) use them as a comparison level regarding the safety of private water wells).

Should well owners drink the water?

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that owners of wells containing TCE and PCE at or greater than the standards find an alternative source of drinking water.

If contamination is found in my well, will the state force me to change over to a public water supply?

Neither Illinois EPA nor Illinois Department of Public Health would "force" a citizen to abandon a private well. IDPH will advise residents of any well contamination and make recommendations about changes in water use. Private wells are the domain of the well owner.

What adverse health effects are related to exposure to TCE or PCE?

Exposure to levels of TCE and PCE much greater than those levels found in Downers Grove area wells can cause nausea, dizziness or headaches. Exposure to low levels over long periods may lead to impaired immune system function and may increase the risk of kidney or liver cancer or other damage.

There is an updated "Trichloroethylene Health Risk Assessment" by U.S. EPA that is now out for public comment. This draft assessment is available on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/ncea. You may also phone the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA's) Technical Information Staff at 202/564-3261 or fax a request for the assessment to 202/565-0050

How can I reduce my exposure to TCE or PCE?	If your water contains TCE or PCE, you can greatly reduce your exposure by using another source of drinking water or by using water filtration equipment designed to remove VOCs. Since VOCs evaporate into the air, you can reduce your inhalation exposure by running the bathroom exhaust fan during baths and showers. Exposure to TCE or PCE from other water uses should be very small.
Should I install a filter system to remove this type of contamination?	Activated carbon or activated charcoal treatment units (whole-house) effectively remove volatile organic chemicals such as PCE and TCE. A homeowner should look for systems that are ANSI-approved or NSF (National Sanitation Foundation)-approved. A source of information about water filtration systems is Water Quality Association of Lisle, 630/505-0160 at www.wqa.org
Where can I obtain information about connecting to the Downers Grove water supply?	Residents can obtain packets of information containing a pre-annexation agreement and distribution specifications from the Village of Downers Grove. Please call Dave Conley at 630/434-5462 or pick up the information at the Public Works Facility at 5101 Walnut.
What is the next step of the investigation?	The Illinois EPA is scheduling another round of testing of additional wells in the Downers Grove area in mid-October. Teams will be taking samples during the dates of 10/16-18 and 10/23-25. In addition, an investigation is ongoing to try to determine the source or sources of the contaminants in these wells.
Where can I get more information on TCE and PCE?	The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) has an excellent series of fact sheets on a wide range of chemicals available via their website on the Internet. There is also a TCE National Exposure Registry under the "Measuring Health Effects" section. TCE and PCE fact sheets are available at www.atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/ToxFAQ.html. Those without ready access to the Internet may request copies from the DuPage County Health Department or Illinois EPA. In addition, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, is a good source of information about potential health effects from exposures to TCE and PCE. Their phone number is 217/782-5830.

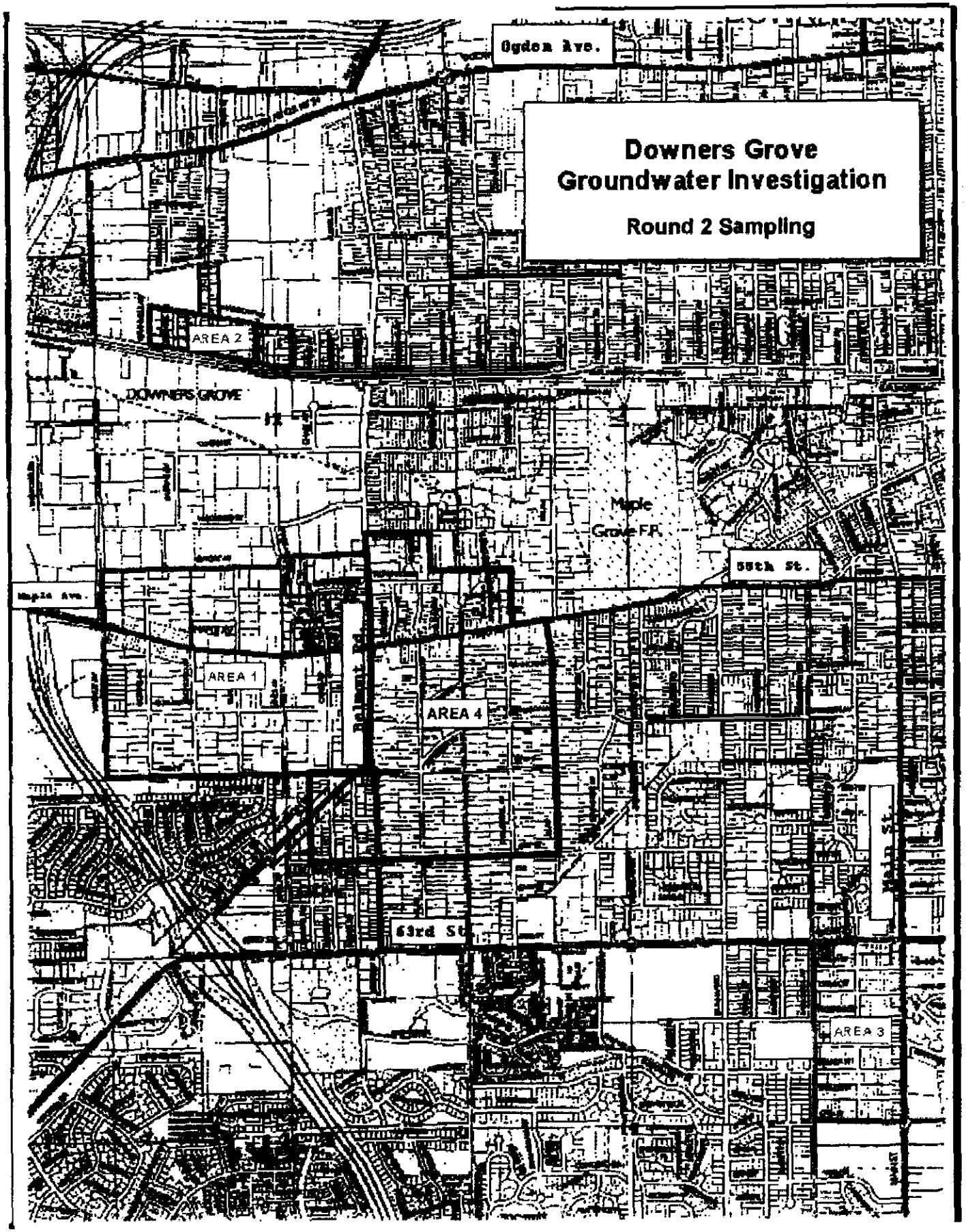
For more information, you may contact:

Carol L. Fuller
Community Relations Coord.
Illinois EPA
217/524-8807
carol.fuller@epa.state.il.us

Maggie Carson
Public Information Officer
Illinois EPA
217/557-8138
maggie.carson@epa.state.il.us

Joe Dombrowski
Remedial Project Mgr.
Illinois EPA, State Sites Unit
217/558-2564
joseph.dombrowski@epa.state.il.us

Other Fact Sheets by the Office of Community Relations, including Fact Sheet #1 for this site, are available on the Illinois EPA web site www.epa.state.il.us



Downers Grove Township and Lisle Township Map

Illinois Department of
Public Health

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

December 19, 2001

Ms. Catherine Linden
2150 59th Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Dear Ms. Linden:

This is in response to your letter of December 2, 2001 and the letter of December 6, 2001 signed by you, Ms. Liz Chaplin, Mr. Larry Napierkowski, Ms. Ann Muniz and Ms. Carolyn Mitrius concerning private wells contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), in unincorporated Downers Grove.

This Department was not aware of the contamination in Downers Grove until June 2001 when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) laboratory results of private well sampling revealed elevated levels of TCE and PCE. Since then, we have assisted with sampling wells in the area, sent letters to affected residents, and answered questions at public availability sessions held in October 2001.

Unfortunately, there are no funds available at this time either through the DuPage County Health Department or the Illinois Department of Public Health to assist with connection of residences to the community water system. Under certain circumstances, funds may be available through IEPA. I will forward a copy of your letter and this response to IEPA along with a copy of the petitions from homeowners requesting financial assistance to connect to the Downers Grove water supply. You may contact them at Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Public Water Supplies, Groundwater Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue E., P.O. 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, telephone 217-785-8653. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined the investigation into the source of groundwater contamination in Downers Grove. You may also wish to contact them at 800-621-8431 with regard to possible financial assistance.

Treatment of your private water supply system may be an alternative solution for you. PCE and TCE are classified as volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). Water containing these chemicals above the maximum contaminant levels can be treated to render it safe to drink by means of an activated carbon filter. It is recommended that activated carbon filtration treatment systems meet National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard 53. Meeting this standard means that the filter has been tested to assure its capability of removing VOCs. NSF-approved systems contain the NSF seal for easy identification.

We regret that this Department is unable to offer financial assistance to you and the other residents affected. If you have any additional comments or questions, please contact our Division of Environmental Health for additional information and assistance at 217-782-5830.

Sincerely,

Janet R. Stone
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Health Protection

cc: Liz Chaplin
Larry Napierkowski
Ann Muniz
Carolyn Mitrius
USEPA Region 5
DuPage County Health Department
Illinois EPA
IDPH West Chicago Regional Office

ROBERT J. SCHILLERSTROM
COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN

DuPage County

(630) 682-7282

January 29, 2002

Ms. Ann Muniz
5617 Pershing Ave.
Downers Grove IL 60516

Dear Ann:

On behalf of DuPage County government, I am responding to your letter regarding Downers Grove Gardens Private Well Contamination.

As Chairman of the DuPage County Board, I share your concern over this issue and pledge my commitment towards remedying this situation. I have recently appointed a new Chairman of the DuPage Water Commission, Michael Vondra, and he will be charged with working to assure that every citizen has clean, safe and affordable water. The challenges presented concerning the private wells in Downers Grove is a priority in my office and will remain so until a resolution is found.

The situation is additionally complicated because the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has the lead responsibility for screening public water supplies. Multiple other jurisdictions and agencies are also involved, on the federal, state and local levels.

But no matter what agency may have the ultimate responsibility for this situation, I pledge to you that the DuPage County Board along with the DuPage Water Commission will accept the responsibility for investigating the problem and for working tirelessly to resolve this issue, not only on behalf of the residents of Downers Grove Gardens but for all DuPage citizens.

I share your frustration with the difficulty and expense of connecting to the Village's water supply. I am directing the DuPage Water Commission to review these procedures and to immediately revise any and all policies that serve as obstacles to clean, safe and affordable water for any of our citizens.

Five questions were posed in the original petition letter. I would like to respond to those questions and to open the door for continuing dialogue on this subject.

1-Why were the well owners not informed of the contamination?

Federal law that governs public water supplies does not require public notification. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) under federal law has the responsibility for screening community (public) water supplies.

We have determined that the IEPA referred this investigation to their Bureau of Land. The Bureau of Land's follow-up investigation into the Downers Grove wells showed that TCE was not always present at a level in violation of federal standards according to IEPA spokeswoman Maggie Carson. According to Carson, the state did not find a source and since the village was in the process of linking the wells to Lake Michigan, there was no further investigation.

Though several well site survey reports on the water contamination were published by the IEPA, these reports were never given to DuPage County.

I have directed Leland Lewis, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department, to obtain copies of those reports from the IEPA immediately. Furthermore, I am requesting that the IEPA institute a fundamental change in their policy and inform all jurisdictions when contamination that could endanger the public health is found.

2-If the contaminants were found over ten years ago, has the investigation been on-going since?

DuPage County is only aware of the current investigation being conducted by the IEPA regarding VOCs in Downers Grove. However we are requesting back-up information with dates from the IEPA so that we best understand the scope of this problem.

3-Why doesn't anyone inform current and potential homeowners of the history of contamination in nearby wells?

The unfortunate reality is that the Federal law does not require public notification on the issue of contamination. The IEPA acknowledged there was not any probe or public notice provided about the previous contaminated public wells. DuPage County believes that the issue of public notice is critical to our ability to provide service to our citizens. As I said we are requesting a change in this policy from the IEPA.

4-Why do our wells continue to be certified as safe?

The County does not certify the wells as safe. In compliance with the rules of the Illinois Department of Public Health, the DuPage Health Department performs tests only for private water wells. Under these rules private water wells are only tested for coliform bacteria and nitrates. A test for coliform bacteria is an indicator if the groundwater contains bacterial contaminates; a test for nitrates is an indicator for chemical contamination. If a water supply

meets the minimum requirements of these two tests as established by the State of Illinois, it is accepted in Illinois as meeting the minimum drinking water standards. These tests are the accepted standard for potable drinking water. Other possible contaminates are not analyzed by the Health Department. I agree there has been a problem with communication in the past. However, over the last few years we have worked with the Health Department and the State's Attorney's Office and have revised our county water testing form to explain what is actually being tested. In addition, we have created another form to identify potential areas of testing.

5-Why didn't the Health Department inform private well owners that their labs were not equipped to test for other contaminants in the ground water?

The DuPage County Health Department Water Sample Report Form specifically indicates what the water sample has been tested for in total compliance with the rules, which are coliform bacteria and nitrates. It does not state what was **not tested** from the sample. The DuPage County Health Department laboratory provides no other water tests.

That form is currently being changed and private well owners will be informed of contaminants that were not tested. Additionally, owners will be given information about other agencies and organizations that can perform further testing.

I hope this answers some of your questions. I know that this is a difficult, complex and frightening issue. I also know that changing government procedures takes time. But I am fully committed to resolving this critical issue with all deliberate speed.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Schillerstrom
Chairman
DuPage County Board

566LL

District Office
1 South Cass, 2nd Floor
Westmont, Illinois 60559
(630) 852-8633
Fax (630) 852-6530

Capitol Office
G-2 Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 782-1448
Fax (217) 782-2289

PATRICIA R. "PATTI" BELLOCK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 81ST DISTRICT

May 10, 2002

Ms. Ann Muniz
5617 Pershing Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. I assure you that I am continuing to work on behalf of residents of unincorporated DuPage County to secure safe and uncontaminated water. Over the last five months I have held 15 meetings with residents, elected officials and government agencies, including the IEPA, USEPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, DuPage County and local municipalities, in an effort to resolve the water contamination problem.

The Citizens Advisory Groups have become very active and we have achieved some results, but we are still working on two of the main goals: to provide a safe drinking water supply at a low cost, and to locate the source of the contamination. The other matters of annexation and taxation by the DuPage Water Commission remain major concerns that are intertwined with these issues.

In Springfield, we have passed Senate Bill 2072, which will solve the notification problem for all residents in the State of Illinois in future years. House Bill 5961, addressing revolving loan accounts, has passed the House and is currently in the Senate; therefore, it is still active this session. The DuPage Water Commission has made an intergovernmental agreement of a low interest loan with future annexation requirements, but we cannot comment on it since we have not seen the final written document. Some residents have positive comments, and others find it unacceptable if it requires annexation in any time period.

Last week a few leaders of the CAG came down to Springfield and met with House Minority Leader Lee Daniels and me to discuss a solution to the problem. Leader Daniels listened to the concerns of the group and agreed with us that this is a crucial public health issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

In summary of the last few months, I believe we have accomplished several objectives but have not yet resolved the final issues:

1. We encouraged the Governor to appoint the Action Task Force.
2. We founded the Citizens Advisory Groups for the locations east and west of I-355.
3. We introduced three pieces of legislation: the one failed which pertained to well testing prior to a house sale; SB2072 passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature; and HB5961 is still active. Copies of HB5961 and SB2072 are attached.
4. We conducted several meetings with elected officials and government agencies to assist in resolving the problem.
5. The IEPA and USEPA have, to date, spent over one million dollars in our area of Downers Grove to assess the damage and to locate the source of the contamination.

Thank you for your patience and persistence in working together on this problem in our community. I commend you for your hard work and efforts that have helped to propel this issue to the forefront. We are far closer to a resolution because of your dedication and commitment. Senator Dillard, Representative Meyer and I will continue to work with you until we have a solution that is agreeable to you, the residents.

Best regards,

Patricia R. Bellock
State Representative

HOUSE BILL 5961

House Sponsors:
MEYER-BELLOCK-DURKIN-HULTGREN.
Senate Sponsors:
DILLARD

Short description:
CONTAMINATED WELL WATER LOAN
Synopsis of Bill as introduced:

Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Creates the Contaminated Well Water Revolving Loan Program to help homeowners with contaminated well water to connect to an alternate water source. Amends the State Finance Act to establish the Contaminated Well Water Revolving Loan Program Fund. Effective immediately.

HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. 1.

Deletes reference to:
415 ILCS 5/14.7 new
Adds reference to:
415 ILCS 30/6b-1 new

Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Illinois Water Construction Code. Creates the Contaminated Well Water Revolving Loan Program to help homeowners with contaminated well water to connect to an alternate water source. Amends the State Finance Act

to establish the Contaminated Well Water Revolving Loan Program Fund. Effective immediately.

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1.

Changes the amount available to be borrowed by an owner with a contaminated well to $30,000 (from $100,000).

Last action on Bill: PLACED ON CALENDAR ORDER OF CONCURRENCE 01

Last action date: MAY-09-02

SENATE BILL 2072

Senate Sponsors: Dillard, Rauschenberger, Jones, W., Parker, Lauzen, Lispincbbomke, Donahue, LispinCm Bronen, and Madigan, L.

House Sponsors: Bellock-Meyer-Franks-Lyons,E.,-Cowlishaw-
Short description: ENVIRONMENTAL-WATER SUPPLIES
Synopsis of Bill as introduced: Amends the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act. Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to notify the Department of Public Health, unless notification is already provided, of the discovery of any volatile organic compound in excess of the Board's Groundwater Quality Standards or the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level. Provides an exception to the restriction that the Act does not apply to a community water supply that is regulated under the Environmental Protection Act. Requires the Department to notify the public within 60 days of the receipt of the notice from the Agency that the owner of any private water system, semi-private water system, or non-community public water system needs to test his or her system for potential contamination. Provides guidelines for the publication of notice. Effective immediately. SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1. Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to notify the unit of local government of the discovery of any volatile organic compound in excess of the Board's Groundwater Quality Standards or the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level. Provides that the unit of local government shall take any action that it deems appropriate within a reasonable time after notification by the Agency.
Last action on Bill: PASSED BOTH HOUSES **Last action date:** MAY-01-02

DuPage County
ROBERT J. SCHILLERSTROM
COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN

DU PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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SOLID WASTE
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May 27, 2003

Dear Property Owner:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and various other governmental agencies have identified a plume of contamination within the ground water aquifer in your area (primary area). These agencies have been working to facilitate the connection of all residents and businesses to a public water supply. **Your property has been identified as being within the boundaries of this primary area.**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the DuPage County Board is considering an ordinance, which will require all homes and businesses within the primary area to connect to a public water supply and all wells to be sealed. The majority of the cost of this project including private service lines and the sealing of the wells is being negotiated at this time. The ordinance will not move forward until a favorable settlement can be reached. Details of this project will be discussed at an upcoming public meeting yet to be scheduled. You will be notified of the date, time and location of this public meeting in the near future.

If you are currently on a public water supply and do not have a private well please disregard this letter.