April 2009

Your Information

FACTSHEET

Interim Measures for Deep Groundwater Contamination at North Patuxent Road and Dovetail Lane, Odenton, Maryland

Fort George G. Meade - Anne Arundel County, Maryland

The Army, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health (AACDH), has been conducting an investigation of groundwater in the southeastern portion of Fort Meade. In January 2009, validated laboratory results of groundwater samples collected from two Army-installed monitoring wells (MW-125d and MW-126d) at North Patuxent Road and Dovetail Lane in Odenton, Maryland, identified levels of trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and carbon tetrachloride (CCl4) above the USEPA's safe drinking water standards, also known as federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The groundwater for the tests was collected more than 200 feet below the surface. Most private wells are expected to be less than 200 feet deep; at this time, no immediate risk is anticipated. After the USEPA reviewed the test results, they directed the Army to implement a plan that includes interim measures, such as additional monitoring well testing, testing of private wells potentially impacted by the contamination, and assessment of the potential for vapors to emanate from the contaminated groundwater and enter homes and businesses. The objective of the interim measures is to ensure that homeowners and businesses within the study area have safe drinking water and indoor air. The study area, as defined by the USEPA, is a 1-mile radius around MW-125d and MW-126d (see Figure 1). The Army has retained the services of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, to assist the Army in the planning and implementation of the interim measures.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an interim measure?

An interim measure is a short-term action taken to quickly prevent, mitigate, or remedy unacceptable risk(s) posed to human health and/or the environment by a potential release of a hazardous substance. After interim measures are completed, additional studies will be conducted to identify the final solution to the problem.

Where is the study area?

The study area is a 1-mile radius around MW-125d and MW-126d, which are located at the intersection of North Patuxent Road and Dovetail Lane in Odenton, Maryland, as shown in Figure 1.

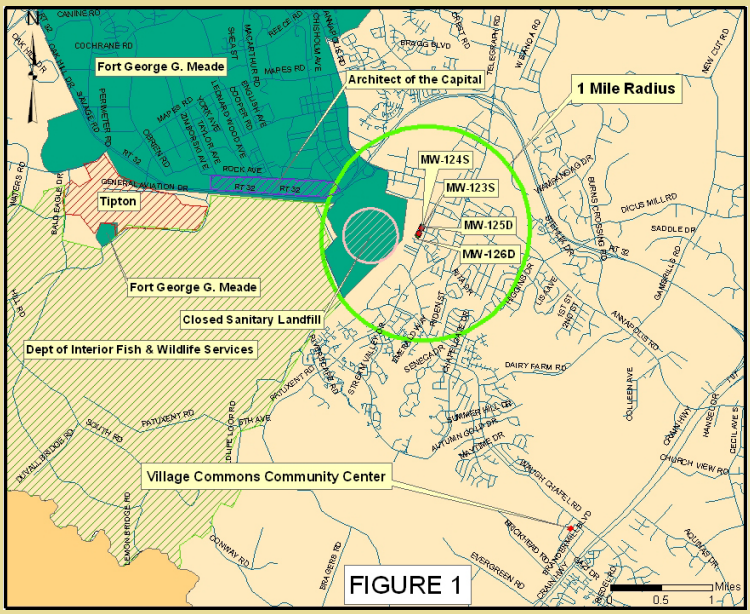

FIGURE 1

Why was the groundwater at MW-125d and MW-126d investigated and what were the results?

The Army installed MW-125d and MW-126d in 2003 during a remedial investigation of groundwater at the Closed Sanitary Landfill located in the southeastern part of Fort Meade. The wells were sampled in June 2004 and found to contain levels of PCE and CCl_4 above their MCLs. The Army shared this information with the stakeholders, including the USEPA, MDE, and AACDH. In response, AACDH began a testing program of private wells located southeast of the Closed Sanitary Landfill. AACDH collected samples from 2005 through 2008; throughout that time, no test results showed any chemical contaminants above MCLs. Copper and lead were detected above MCLs, but AACDH attributed these to household plumbing. As part of the Army's continuing effort to monitor groundwater in the area, the Army resampled MW-125d and MW-126d in late 2008; the validated test results showed the levels of TCE, PCE, and CCl_4 were above their MCLs and higher than the 2004 levels.

Have homeowner and business drinking water wells in the area been tested?

Based on the flow direction the groundwater contamination was expected to follow, 19 private wells were identified by AACDH as part of their private well testing program. A summary of the 2005 through 2008 private well test results are provided on the AACDH Web site at **http://www.aahealth.org/a2z.asp?ID=165.** AACDH's results have shown only limited detections of TCE, PCE, and CCl_4, all of which were below their respective MCLs.

Frequently Asked Questions...continued

Am I being exposed to contaminants in my drinking water?

If you are drinking water from the public water supply (Anne Arundel County), you are not being exposed to TCE, PCE, or CCl_4 in your drinking water. According to AACHD officials, all potable water within the Anne Arundel County public water supply is obtained from locations outside the area southeast of Fort Meade. However, if you are in the 1-mile radius and you have a private water well, your well water should be tested as soon as possible to determine if any of these chemicals are present in your water at concentrations above their MCLs. The Army will sample your well(s) and provide bottled water (through a bottled water service) at no cost to you to ensure that you have safe drinking water. The Army, in cooperation with the USEPA, MDE, and the AACHD, will be conducting a door-to-door survey of homes and businesses within the study area to locate private water wells (see Groundwater Use Survey below). During the door-to-door survey, please tell the survey takers if you have a well on your property and whether it is used or unused. The Army will contact you shortly after the survey to discuss whether any additional action is necessary to ensure the safe use of your well (e.g., sampling, providing bottle water, filtration).

Groundwater Use Survey

Why is the Army conducting a door-to-door survey?

As part of the ongoing investigation and in accordance with USEPA's Order issued under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Army is conducting a door-to-door survey for properties located within a 1-mile radius of MW-125d and MW-126d. The goal of this survey is to determine the locations of any water supply wells located in the study area and whether these wells are being used for potable (drinking), agricultural, or other purposes.

What is the procedure for the door-to-door survey?

The Army has distributed a letter notifying all residents, businesses, and property owners located within the study area that a door-to-door survey would be conducted. Representatives from the Army, Malcolm Pirnie, and other government stakeholders will go door to door asking residents in the survey area the questions on the survey form regarding the source of water supply, existence of wells, and uses of well water. There will also be general questions regarding well construction for those who have a private well. Additional attempts will be made to contact all residents who are not reached during the door-to-door survey.

How will I recognize the survey takers?

The survey takers will be wearing shirts with the Malcolm Pirnie logo (see below). Malcolm Pirnie's representatives also will be carrying Malcolm Pirnie photo identification. Representatives from the Army, USEPA, MDE, and AACHD may accompany the survey team and will also have photo identification.

MALCOLM PIRNIE

Do I need to fill out the survey form in advance?

No. The survey takers will gather all information during the door-to-door survey.

What should I do if I have a well?

If you have a well, whether used or unused, please relay this information to the survey takers during the door-to-door survey or call **Malcolm Pirnie at (410) 230-9962.**

What will happen after I notify the survey takers that I have a well?

Malcolm Pirnie will contact you to schedule a date and time to collect a water sample from your well. They will also discuss other actions, such as providing bottled water to your home.

Chemicals of Concern - TCE, PCE, and CCl_4

What are TCE, PCE, and CCl_4?

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), TCE, PCE, and CCl_4 are manufactured, colorless, dense liquids that do not burn easily. They are volatile and have a sweet odor. Historically, they were used to produce other chemicals, as industrial solvents to clean and degrease metals and dry-clean fabrics, and as an ingredient in paint removers, spot removers, and pesticides. TCE, PCE, and CCl_4 are chlorinated, volatile organic compounds that dissolve in water to a small extent and are readily released from water to air.

How do I learn more about TCE, PCE, and CCl_4?

Fact sheets for TCE, PCE, and CCl_4 are available from the ATSDR at: **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html.** If you have any additional health questions contact the AACDH at **(410) 222-7398.**

Contact Information

For additional information regarding the interim measures project, please contact one of the following individuals:

Mr. Michael "Mick" Butler – Chief, Environmental Management Office, Fort George G. Meade, (301) 677-9648
Ms. Kerry Topovski – Environmental Director, AACHD, (410) 222-7191
Mr. Robert Stroud – Project Manager, USEPA, Region III, (410) 305-2748
Mr. Kurt Scarbro – Project Manager, Federal Facilities Division, MDE, (410) 537-3045

Additional Information

Additional information describing the project is available on the Fort Meade Environmental Management System Web site at **http://www.fortmeade-ems.org** (use the link for Installation Restoration). More environmental information can also be found at **http://ftmeade.army.mil.** These Web sites will be updated as the project progresses