



Two Studies Mark Beginning of Copley Cleanup Process

Copley Square Plaza Superfund Site
Copley, Ohio

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For more information

To learn more about the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site, contact one of these team members:

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You may review site-related documents at:

Copley Township Trustees Office
1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
Copley

Fairlawn-Bath Public Library
3101 Smith Road
Akron

Web site

This as well as future fact sheets will be placed on this Web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/

Click on Ohio and scroll down until you find the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site.

An investigation is scheduled to begin next month in the first step toward managing contamination at the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site, 2777 Copley Road. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will work closely with Ohio EPA to complete two studies on polluted ground water underneath the Copley Square Plaza Shopping Center. Ground water is the term for underground supplies of fresh water.

The first study is known as a “remedial investigation.” It’s designed to find out where the contamination is located and how widespread it is. EPA will do extensive testing to map out the area contaminated by what are called “volatile organic compounds.” These are chemical compounds that evaporate easily in the air. One such compound is tetrachloroethene, commonly known as PERC, which is used in the dry cleaning process.

Once this investigation is complete, EPA will conduct a “feasibility study.” The purpose of this second study is to look at a range of options for cleaning up the contamination.

Testing to be done at some homes

During the remedial investigation, the bulk of the activity will be near the shopping center, but EPA will also initially take drinking water samples from 19 homes near the site. A few homes will also be selected for “soil gas” sampling. This refers to gasses and compounds in the small spaces between particles of earth. EPA is concerned about soil gas because there is a potential for contaminants in the ground water to move into the air (or gas) in the soil and then, in turn, move into the air in the basements of homes or buildings. The results of previous tests will be used to determine which homes will be tested.

If your home is selected, EPA will contact you to get permission for the testing. If your water comes from a well, workers will simply take a water sample directly from your tap. They may also take a soil gas sample from beneath the foundation of your house. This is done by drilling one or two holes about an inch wide and 8 inches deep through the basement floor. A sensor is then inserted into the hole and attached to a canister that stays in place for 24 hours. EPA calls this procedure a “sub-slab” sample.

More extensive sampling will be done on the Copley Square property. This will involve soil and ground-water sampling and the installation of probes in the ground to collect soil gas samples. Samples will also be collected in the southwestern part of the Meadows of Copley condominiums. EPA does not expect to take air samples inside the condos during the first round of testing. However, as a follow-up to the initial testing results, indoor air samples may be taken later. In fact, there may be multiple rounds of testing over the next year or so. The results of one round will tell EPA where to go next in the effort to determine the extent of the contamination.

All this testing is done at no cost to you and is completely safe. The tests are designed to protect your family’s health. EPA will let you know if the test results show any contamination in your water or under your house. If you have concerns

about your well water and your house is not among those sampled, please contact one of the EPA team members listed in the shaded column on the front page of this fact sheet.

Plaza is focus of effort

Residential testing is only a small part of the overall project. EPA and Ohio EPA will be doing much more work at the shopping center itself. This is the source of the ground-water contamination, and therefore is the focus of the investigation.

Here, and on the condo property, you may see heavy machinery and trucks, including equipment to drill ground-water monitoring wells. You should expect to see additional truck traffic and workers in the area of the shopping center, probably in February and March. Some workers may be wearing required protective clothing.

Next steps

Once this initial investigation is done, EPA will develop a proposed plan. This document lists several possible cleanup methods. It explains which option EPA believes is the best way to control the pollution. You and your neighbors will have an opportunity to learn about the proposed plan and tell EPA what you think about it.

After public comments have been considered, EPA may revise its recommendation based on those comments before publishing a final cleanup plan, known to EPA as a “record of


decision.” You will have an opportunity to comment on the final plan. If cleanup work is required, it will probably begin sometime in 2007.

Site background

Ohio EPA responded to complaints in April 1990 of an odor in water from wells serving two businesses in the Copley Square Shopping Center – a dry cleaners and a grocery store. Ohio EPA found that the ground water contained volatile organic compounds at levels higher than what EPA considers safe. Samples showed the chemicals came from the dry cleaners.

After four years of extensive testing in the 1990s, Ohio EPA asked for assistance from EPA to protect local residents from the polluted water. EPA oversaw the installation of water treatment systems in nearby homes with wells, the closing of eight wastewater tanks at the dry cleaners and the installation of a system to treat the ground water. Ohio EPA maintains these systems today.

In 2000, EPA reviewed the situation at the site and found the ground water was still contaminated – there had been no improvement since the mid-1990s. The site was placed on the National Priorities List – better known as Superfund – in April 2005. Being on the Superfund list made the site eligible for federal funding because no private parties have been identified with the financial ability to pay for the cleanup.

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COPLEY SQUARE PLAZA SUPERFUND SITE: Two Studies Mark Beginning of Copley Cleanup Process

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