



# FACT SHEET

EPA Region 4  
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
Corrective Action Program

Number 4

April 2016

## Environmental Study in Grenada, Mississippi

### EPA SAMPLING ACTIVITIES IN APRIL AND MAY 2016

#### INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to assess potential impacts to human health and the environment resulting from contamination at and surrounding the Grenada Manufacturing, LLC facility (Facility). **EPA will conduct a site investigation at the Facility in April 2016, as well as additional sampling in the Eastern Heights neighborhood in May 2016. Based on results received to date, EPA has determined there is no immediate threat to public health.** However, these new investigations are part of a precautionary approach to protect public health and confirm that residents are not being exposed to unsafe levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) in outside or indoor air. The results will help guide the ongoing cleanup of the Facility and surrounding areas.



The EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of performing real-time air sampling.

Learn more at:

[www.epa.gov/ert/environmental-response-team-trace-atmosphere-gas-analyzer-taga](http://www.epa.gov/ert/environmental-response-team-trace-atmosphere-gas-analyzer-taga)

#### BACKGROUND

EPA has been investigating and directing cleanup actions at the Facility since the mid-1990's. EPA first issued a cleanup permit to the Facility in 1998. Cleanup to date includes source control measures in several areas at the Facility and the installation of an on-site groundwater treatment technology, a permeable reactive barrier (PRB).

EPA is concerned about the effectiveness of the PRB and the levels of TCE in a monitoring well near the northern property boundary of the Facility next to the Eastern Heights neighborhood. EPA has directed the Facility to further investigate and identify measures to address these concerns. The resulting investigation identified contaminated groundwater in the southern portion of the Eastern Heights neighborhood. Groundwater sampling results further indicate that there may be more sources of TCE beyond those previously known to EPA. The public is not at risk of direct exposure to this contaminated groundwater since the community receives its drinking water from the public water supply.

In June 2015, EPA directed the Facility to conduct environmental sampling in and around the Eastern Heights neighborhood. EPA oversaw investigations in September 2015 and February 2016, which included two rounds of indoor air and outdoor air sampling and one round of groundwater and soil sampling in the Eastern Heights neighborhood.

## BACKGROUND (continued)

Due to the presence of multiple groundwater plumes, which present a more complex situation than was previously known, EPA is using additional authorities outside of the cleanup permit to expand the investigation. EPA is coordinating closely with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).



Above: The TAGA bus collecting an outdoor air sample.  
Below: The air sample is analyzed and read in real time.

## FACILITY SITE INVESTIGATION (April 2016)

EPA will collect soil, sediment and water samples. Most samples will be collected on Facility property. Samples will also be collected from Riverdale Creek and property owned by the City of Grenada. EPA will also conduct an updated water well survey to determine whether there are private drinking water wells in use in the area. The results of this investigation will help EPA and MDEQ determine what additional actions may be necessary to clean up contamination at the Facility and surrounding areas.



## ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING IN EASTERN HEIGHTS (May 2016)

The groundwater sampling results from the September 2015 investigation indicate that there is contaminated groundwater in the southern portion of the Eastern Heights neighborhood. Due to the potential migration of TCE vapors from the groundwater to air (referred to as “vapor intrusion”), as a precautionary measure, EPA plans to sample 18 additional homes during the week of May 2nd. EPA will seek the necessary access to conduct this air sampling inside and outside of these homes.

EPA plans to use its Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus to conduct the sampling. The TAGA bus is a self-contained mobile laboratory which allows air samples to be quickly monitored and instantly analyzed to determine if contaminants are present. The TAGA bus will be used to monitor indoor air in homes as well as outdoor air around the Facility and the Eastern Heights neighborhood. Additional air samples will be collected inside homes using canisters left in place for a 24-hour period. Groundwater samples will also be collected at several locations in the neighborhood.

### Contact EPA Region 4 Representatives for more information:

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**Website:** [www.epa.gov/grenadacleanup](http://www.epa.gov/grenadacleanup)