

For more information

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Information repository:

Official documents are available for your review at:

U.S. EPA Records Center
Seventh Floor,
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL

On the web:

Former Delco Chassis Facility
Corrective Action website at:
<https://www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactioncleanups/epa-rcra-id-mid005356621>

The public drinking water supply that provides water to your home has not been impacted by this contamination. If you have questions at any step of the process, please contact the EPA team members listed above.

EPA Oversees Construction to Treat Groundwater Plume

Former Delco Chassis Facility

Livonia, Michigan

November 2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust (RACER) are investigating and addressing environmental harms related to industrial activities at the Former Delco Chassis facility in Livonia, Michigan. RACER completed a study this summer that shows chemicals have migrated through groundwater to the City of Livonia's Newburgh Village property. As part of the study, RACER collected samples to check for a pollution problem called vapor intrusion, or VI. VI occurs when contamination in the groundwater or soil gives off gases that can rise through the soil and enter buildings through foundation cracks and holes, which can possibly affect indoor air quality. Groundwater is an environmental term for underground water and soil gas is a term for underground air. A family of chemicals called volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, is especially prone to vapor intrusion because those chemicals evaporate quickly into the air. This study focused on the VOC trichloroethene, or TCE.

Under an agreement with the EPA, RACER collected soil, groundwater, and soil gas samples related to the facility's prior use of VOC solvents. Soil gas samples are used to find vapor intrusion problems. Soil gas or vapor testing involves digging probes into the ground or under building foundations to test for VOC vapors trapped between soil particles. The results of the sampling at the Newburgh Village property indicate that the VOC solvents have not moved close enough to the buildings to create a vapor intrusion problem. RACER is planning to construct an underground wall called a permeable reactive barrier to clean up the contaminated groundwater as it passes through the barrier and prevent the chemicals from moving closer to the buildings.

What is the purpose of this work?

Under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, the EPA requires facilities to demonstrate that chemicals used by the company are not a health risk to the community. If a release occurs, the EPA has the authority under the RCRA law to require the facility to address the contamination. Groundwater sampling shows chemicals from the former Delco Chassis facility have moved off the property and to the Newburgh Village property. While VI is not a concern at present at Newburgh Village, groundwater and soil gas testing results show that the potential for vapor intrusion exists in the future. RACER needs to take action to prevent the vapors from entering the buildings through vapor intrusion.

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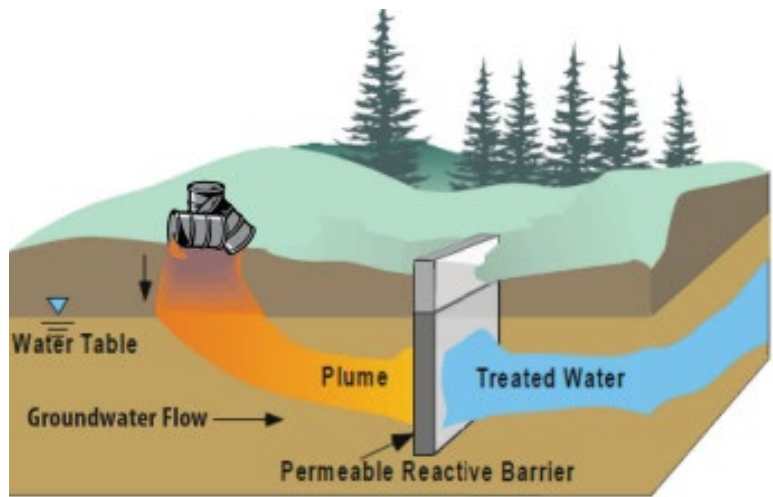
What is RACER planning to do?

RACER will use drilling equipment to inject material into the ground to form the permeable reactive barrier, also called a PRB. The material is not harmful to groundwater or people. The PRB will remove contaminants in the groundwater as the groundwater flows through it. RACER will collect samples to confirm that the groundwater is treated as it flows through the PRB, and to confirm that the buildings at Newburgh Village are not impacted by the contaminants while treatment is in progress.

To be certain that the treatment is working as planned and no health risk exists, RACER will collect samples. However, RACER is not planning sampling near every home at this time. If you observe RACER collecting samples near your home, it does not mean vapor intrusion is occurring in your house.

Next Steps

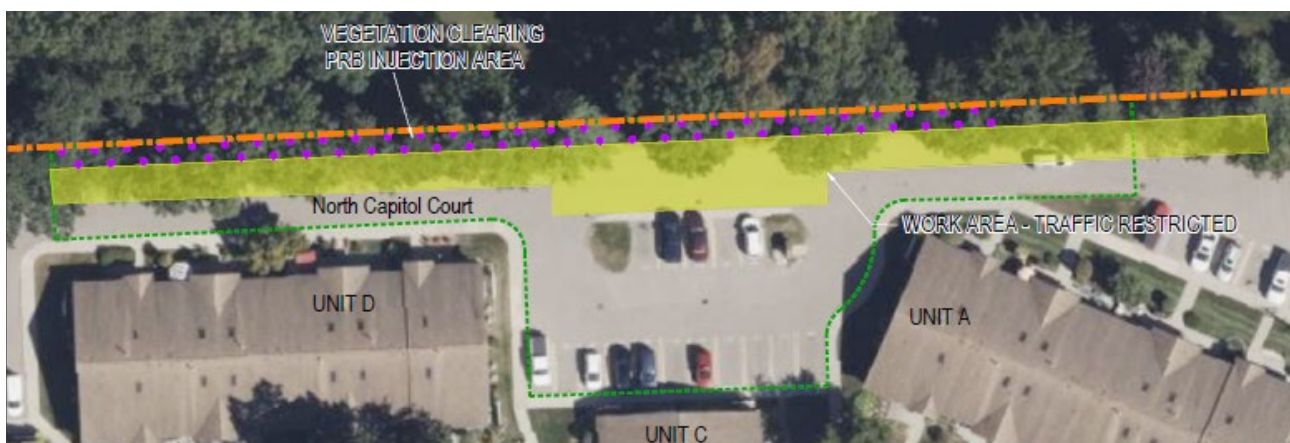
RACER plans to install the permeable reactive barrier in January 2025 in the area shown below along North Capitol Court. Installation of the PRB will take approximately three weeks. RACER will collect samples during and after the installation of the PRB for approximately one year. They will collect samples more frequently at the start of the project with less frequent sampling performed as information is gathered to confirm that the system is working as planned. RACER and the EPA will conduct regular meetings to keep residents informed of progress at the property.



This diagram shows how a PRB treats a plume of groundwater contaminants.

What types of samples will be collected?

RACER will collect soil gas samples using metal canisters called “Summa canisters” that are used to pull vapors from the ground. An example of a Summa canister is shown in the photo below. RACER will also collect groundwater samples from monitoring wells and water samples from the storm sewer that runs along Capitol Court.



Approximate location of the PRB (purple dots) and the work area (shaded yellow).