COMMUNITY UPDATE INFORMATION SHEET
CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site
Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

January 18, 2013

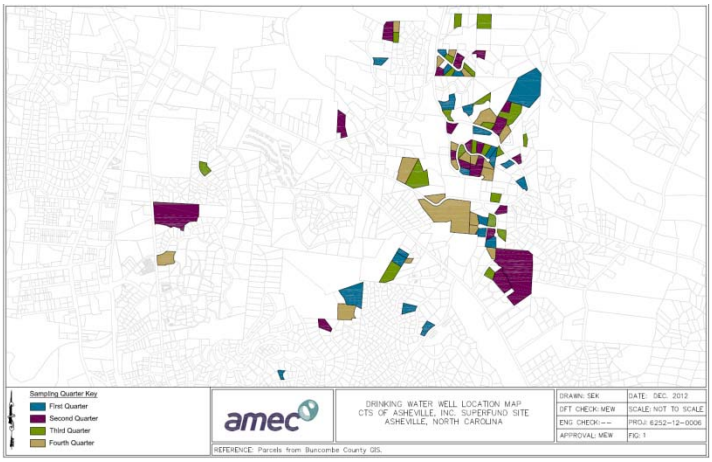
EPA is committed to keeping the community informed about activities related to the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site. Community Update Information Sheets will be published approximately monthly and will summarize the present status, future activities, and community involvement opportunities. Historical information has been presented in previous editions.

The CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site is located at 235 Mills Gap Road in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. It is in an area known as Skyland, which is approximately 5 miles south of Asheville. The CTS Site is bordered by Mills Gap Road to the north, and residences and undeveloped land to the east, south, and west. The primary contaminant associated with the site is trichloroethylene (TCE).

DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

During the week of January 14-18, 2013, CTS Corporation's contractor, AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, conducted the first quarterly well sampling event of 2013. EPA's contractor, OTIE, performed oversight of the sampling activities. For those that have agreed to have their well tested, their well will be sampled at least once a year. Sampling will be performed at 25% of the homes each quarter. AMEC will collect a sample before the well water enters the filtration system installed by Culligan, and a sample after the water passes through the filtration system that was installed by Culligan.

AMEC used statistical methods to randomly assign homes into a quarter (January, April, July, October) for sampling. EPA has reviewed the list and map and has approved the quarterly assignments.



Drinking Water Well Location Map, color-coded by sampling quarter.

AMEC expects to receive laboratory analytical results within 3 weeks of sample submittal. AMEC will review the results. If any chemical is detected at concentrations that exceed the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), AMEC will notify EPA within 24 hours of receipt of the lab results. EPA will call the home owner associated with that sample. AMEC is expected to submit a Water Supply Monitoring Report to EPA within 30 days of receipt of the lab data. EPA will review the report and send a letter to each home owner whose well was sampled with a summary of the analytical results.

PHOTOS OF DRINKING WATER SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

AMEC representative collecting a pre-filter water sample from a well in January 2013

AMEC representative collecting a post-filter sample in January 2013

WHOLE HOUSE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE

Culligan will provide standard/routine servicing and maintenance at no cost to the homeowner. Culligan is responsible for repairing malfunctions of the filtration system as a result of ordinary use and operation. If an issue arises, please notify Culligan immediately by calling their local office:

828-251-2420

In 2012, CTS Corporation offered to install, monitor and maintain whole house water filtration systems for homes that are located within a one mile radius of the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site that rely on well or spring water as their drinking water source **at no cost to the home owners**. The filtration design includes two sediment filters, a carbon filter, and an ultraviolet light, at a minimum.

95 home owners have accepted this offer so far. Filtration design appointments for the majority of these homes have been completed. We found that many homes had some type of filtration system in place already. However, none are as capable of removing volatile organic compounds as the system CTS Corporation is offering.

Culligan began installing filtration systems on September 11, 2012. As of January 18, 2013, filtration systems have been installed in 78 homes.

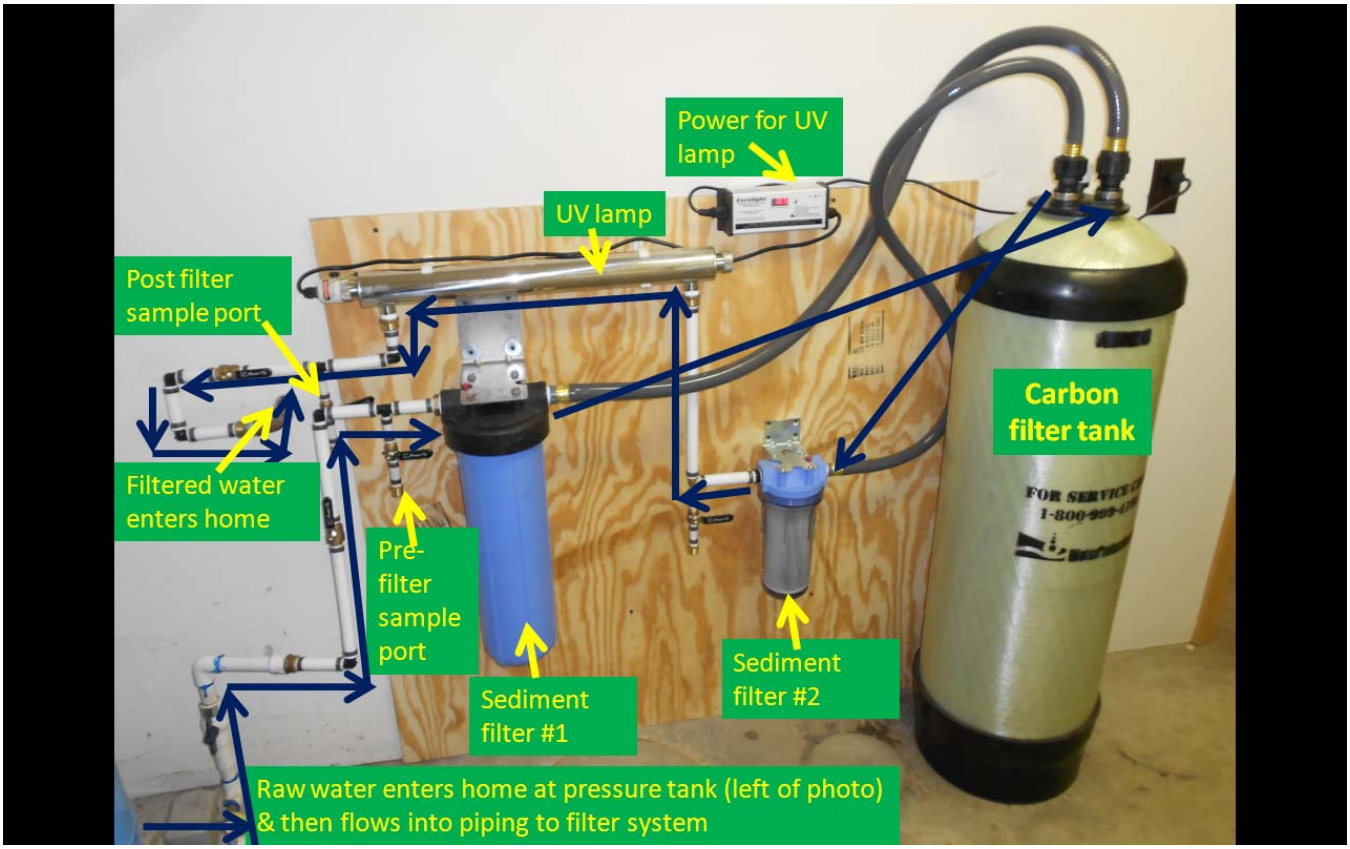


Photo of a system installed at a home in September. Water enters at bottom left of photo from the well/pressure tank and then flows through the system as indicated by blue arrows.

Some homes have water quality issues that require additional treatment equipment to be installed to pre-treat the water before it enters the standard filtration system. For example, homes that have well water with existing bacteria will need an extra UV lamp to kill bacteria before it enters the filtration system. Homes that have water with high iron concentrations will receive equipment that will reduce the iron content prior to the water entering the standard system. Because these water quality issues will impact the standard filtration system if not addressed, CTS Corporation will also install, monitor and maintain this extra equipment at no cost to the home owner.

What if my home doesn't have a basement, large crawl space, garage, etc.?

The ideal installation locations are inside the home (i.e. basement, garage, utility room) to minimize the threat of freezing conditions that could damage the equipment. However, some homes do not have basements, garages or enough space inside for the filtration equipment. For those situations, Culligan installs the system in what they call a "yard barn" on the outside of the home.

The photo on the top left of this page is of an AMEC representative unlocking a "yard barn" to collect a post-filter water sample this week. The photo on the top right is of the interior of an insulated "yard barn" with the filtration system installed.

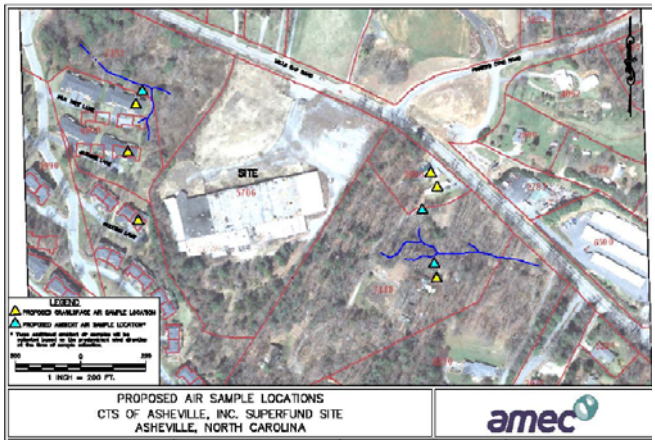
The filtration systems will filter out some metals that are attached to sediment, remove organic chemicals that could possibly enter your well water, and kill bacteria that may be in your water. Accepting the filter system offer does not prevent home owners from connecting to the municipal supply later, if it becomes available. This is being offered as a preventative/safety measure to protect your water until the Remedial Investigation is completed and a final remedy selected, and/or you connect to the municipal water supply, whichever occurs first.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY APPLIES FOR LOAN TO INSTALL WATER LINES

In September 2012, Buncombe County submitted an application to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Water Resources, for a loan to fund the installation of water lines for the homes located within a one-mile radius of the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site. The loan application is currently under review by NCDENR. Buncombe County hired McGill Associates to design the project for the expansion of water lines to be connected to the Asheville Water Authority System. On January 15th, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2012-2013 Capital Projects Ordinance which includes $4.3 million estimate for the project. The design is expected to be completed in February 2013. Buncombe County estimates that the average household water bill would be approximately $44 every two months. They anticipate that water line connections will be completed in the Fall of 2013.

If you have any questions about the municipal water supply line project, please contact Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager, at 828-250-5587.

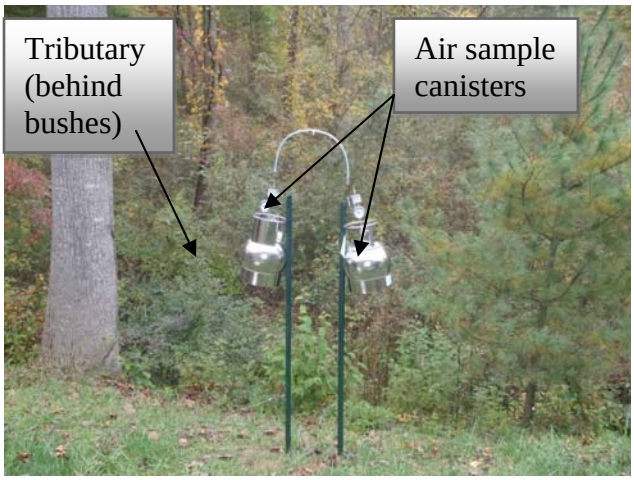
VAPOR INTRUSION ASSESSMENT (AIR SAMPLING)



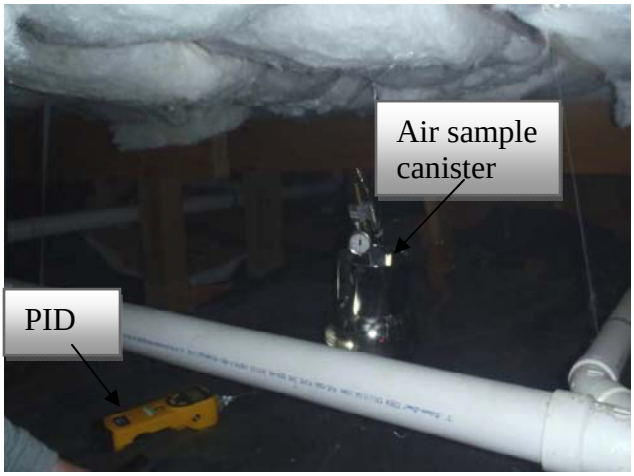
EPA approved AMEC's Vapor Intrusion Assessment Work Plan (Revision 2) in September 2012. The work plan called for collecting air samples within crawl spaces or basements of six homes and collecting outdoor air samples at six locations.

AMEC performed the sampling in October 2012 on the properties on the west side of the site with EPA's contractor overseeing the work. The owners of three homes and property located on the east side of the site refused to allow the sampling to be conducted.

On December 21, 2012, AMEC submitted the Vapor Intrusion Assessment Report to EPA. TCE and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE) were detected in all of the samples. Concentrations of TCE and cis-1,2-DCE during this 2012 assessment are generally similar to or slightly less than the concentrations detected during previous sampling events conducted by EPA related to the Site. EPA is reviewing the report and AMEC's risk calculations. After EPA completes its review of the report, EPA will provide the data to the property owners along with a letter explaining the results of the risk evaluation.



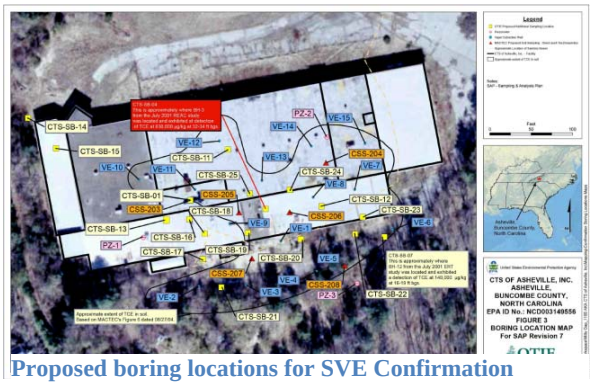
To the left is a photo of two out door air sample canisters located between a spring/tributary and a home in Southside Village. One sample is considered a "duplicate" to compare analytical results. These had the highest outdoor air concentrations of TCE that were dected in October 2012. TCE concentrations were 0.65 and 0.62 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$). These concentrations are within acceptable risk ranges for child and adult residents. The 1990 – 2005 national background concentrations for the 50th percentile of TCE in indoor air from homes not known or expected to be located above soil or groundwater contamination range from non-detect to 1.1 $\mu g/m^3$.



To the left is a photo of an air ample canister and a photoionization detector (PID) in the crawl space of a home in Southside Village. PIDs measure volatile organic compounds, but do not indicate which compound is present. TCE concentrations from the 24-hour air sample canister analyzed by Columbia Analytical Services ranged from 0.29 to 0.65 $\mu g/m^3$ for the three crawlspaces/basement sampled. These concentrations are within acceptable risk ranges for child and adult residents. The 1990 – 2005 national background concentrations for the 50th percentile of TCE in indoor air from homes not known or expected to be located above soil or groundwater contamination range from non-detect to 1.1 $\mu g/m^3$. http://www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/documents/oswer-vapor-intrusion-background-Report-062411.pdf

SOIL AND SHALLOW WATER SAMPLING

Proposed boring locations for NAPL investigation



Proposed boring locations for SVE Confirmation sampling

On December 12, 2012, EPA approved AMEC's revised Work Plan for the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) Investigation. The work plan requires samples to be collected on the site property and on neighboring property to the east of the site. This sampling event will include collecting samples from soils and water to better understand how deep and wide the contamination exists on and near the Site. Specialized equipment will be used and the sampling area may be expanded as data is collected.

The sampling event will include work outlined in the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) Confirmation Sampling and Analysis Plan in addition to work outlined in the NAPL Investigation Work Plan. The NAPL Work Plan requires that sampling activities begin within 30 days of EPA approval of the work plan. However, because the neighboring property owners have not agreed to allow the sampling to be conducted on their property, the project may be delayed. The data collected from this sampling event is essential in order to develop a cleanup plan for contamination.

It is estimated that it will take 3 months to collect all of the samples required by these two work plans. AMEC will submit a report of the sampling event with analytical data to EPA within 45 days after completion of sampling activities.

Information Repository

EPA has established an information repository for the public to review some of the documents related to the Site and the Superfund program. The local repository does not include all documents related to the Site. Additional documents may be made available by EPA upon request. The local information repository is located at the:

Pack Memorial Library
67 Haywood Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801-2834

EPA Website

EPA has a website specifically for the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site. The website address is:
http://www.epa.gov/region4/superfund/sites/npl/northcarolina/millsgapnc.html

Website created by a community member

A community member has created a website, Clean Asheville: http://cleanasheville.info/. This website includes links to EPA Community Updates, news articles, Facebook and twitter pages, etc.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

EPA is aware of two community groups that have formed regarding the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site. The original community group, Concerned Citizens for Mills Gap Cleanup, is led by Glen Horecky. If you are interested in learning more about or joining this group please contact Glen at geh4@msn.com

The newly formed group is led by Lee Ann Smith. Lee Ann's group recently selected a name, POWER, which stands for Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources. POWER meets monthly, communicates with EPA regularly, and maintains a Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/#!/CTSAsheville?fref=ts. If you are interested in learning more about or joining this community group please contact Lee Ann at upthishill@bellsouth.net.

EPA encourages community members to come together as a group and apply to receive funds to hire an independent technical adviser. On January 7, 2013, the community group POWER submitted an application for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). A TAG provides money for activities that help your community participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to $50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. EPA is currently reviewing POWER's TAG application.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

I've met with a lot of community members during the past few months and frequently hear that they don't understand such and such or they have a similar question. In this and future updates, I will pick a topic to try to explain. If you have suggestions for topics for this segment, please send them to me.

What is the definition of the acronym "CTS"?

In 1896, Chicago Telephone Supply Company was formed and began working in a small building near downtown Chicago. They sold telephones and then switchboards. The company quickly grew and in 1902 moved to a larger facility in Elkhart, Indiana, which is about 100 miles east of Chicago. During the Great Depression, they became a major supplier of radio receiver components. Later, they provided variable resistor components for televisions. By the 1960s the company no longer produced commercial telephones but primarily manufactured switches, variable resistors and other electronic components. In 1960, Chicago Telephone Supply Company officially changed its name to CTS Corporation to more accurately reflect its diversified products. More information about the company's history can be found at: http://www.ctscorp.com/about/beginnings.htm.

Contact Information

EPA
EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Angela Miller
Community Involvement Coordinator
404.562.8561 (office)
678.575.8132 (cell)
MILLER.ANGELA@EPA.GOV

Samantha Urquhart-Foster
Remedial Project Manager
404.562.8760 (office)
404.909.0839 (cell)
URQUHART-FOSTER.SAMANTHA@EPA.GOV

NCDENR
Nile Testerman
Environmental Engineer
919.707.8339
NILE.TESTERMAN@NCDENR.GOV

Buncombe County
Mandy Stone
Assistant County Manager
828.250.5587
mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org

Culligan
828.251.2420
culliganwnc@bellsouth.net

Community Groups

Concerned Citizens for Mills Gap Cleanup
Glen Horecky
Geh4@msn.com

POWER
(Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources)
Lee Ann Smith
Upthishill@bellsouth.net

REMEDIAL PROCESS

The EPA and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) have performed numerous investigations related to the Site over the years. In March 2011, the Site was proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL), making it eligible to enter into EPA's remedial process. More information about the superfund cleanup process can be found at the following website: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/index.htm.

The Site was finalized on the NPL in March 2012. In January 2012, CTS Corporation entered into an agreement with EPA for them to conduct the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under EPA oversight. The RI determines the nature and extent of contamination. The FS assesses the treatability of site contamination and evaluates the potential performance and cost of treatment technologies. More information about the RI/FS process can be found at the following website: http://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm

The CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site is complex. Work is planned to occur in several phases. The highest priorities were mentioned on the previous pages of this update. In the future, another work plan will be prepared to extend the investigation, as needed, in order to gather enough information to select and design the most appropriate cleanup options.

QUESTIONS?

Please call or email either Angela or Samantha if you have any questions. We are still building our email distribution list. If you'd like to be added or deleted from our email list, let us know.

Previous Community Updates include more historical information. The following updates are available upon request:

1. May 23, 2012
2. May 31, 2012
3. July 10, 2012
4. August 24, 2012
5. September 14, 2012
6. October 18, 2012
7. November 29, 2012