



COMMUNITY UPDATE INFORMATION SHEET

CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site

Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

February 21, 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.

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The CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site (CTS 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 former facility 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 CTS Site is trichloroethene (TCE).

DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

During the week of January 14-18, 2013, CTS Corporation's contractor, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (AMEC) conducted the first quarterly well sampling event of 2013. EPA's contractor, OTIE, performed oversight of the sampling activities. AMEC collected samples from 21



residential properties. For homes with Culligan installed whole house water filtration systems, AMEC collected two samples: one sample was collected before the filtration system in order to evaluate the quality of the unfiltered ground water and a second sample was collected after the filtration system to evaluate the quality of the filtered water entering the home. For homes that have not had the filtration system installed, only one sample was collected to evaluate the quality of the unfiltered ground water. All samples were analyzed by Pace Analytical Services, Inc. for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are associated with the CTS Site. These VOCs include: 1,1-dichloroethene, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, toluene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, TCE, and vinyl chloride. All results were below applicable health-based benchmarks for drinking water. EPA mailed letters to the 21 property owners this week regarding the sampling event.

The next quarterly drinking water sampling event will include 24 properties and be performed during **April 8-11, 2013**. In March, EPA will call property owners to schedule sampling appointments for those that have been assigned to the 2nd quarter.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY WATER LINE EXTENSION UPDATE

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 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 currently underway.

If you have questions about the municipal water supply line project, please contact:

Mandy Stone

Assistant County Manager

828-250-5587

Several factors may affect the timeline for completion of all water line connections. McGill Associates estimates it will take one year to complete the project after all easements are obtained and the project is put out for bid and awarded to a contractor. The current estimate is that construction may begin in the Fall of 2013, and be completed in 2014.

The following Notice will be mailed to affected residents within the next week:

To Buncombe County residents who rely on well water that are located within the EPA established one (1) mile radius of the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site. A County funded project is underway to provide water service from the City of Asheville to all current residents within a one (1) mile radius of the CTS site. Your residence has been identified as one of these affected properties.

*For residents that desire to connect to the City of Asheville System, the project will include the installation of a new City of Asheville water meter to serve your property as well as the installation of new copper water service line from this new meter to a point within five (5) feet of the primary dwelling where it will be connected to the existing house water line. In order to ensure that these lines are installed with minimal impact and disturbance, the County's engineering consultant, **McGill Associates, P.A., will be visiting each residence over the next several weeks** to identify the location of your well, the point where your existing water line enters the residence and to determine the best route for the new service line. For residents that connect to the City system during this project, the City will waive the normal service connection fees.*

Please feel free to contact the following project contacts with any comments or questions.

*McGill Associates, P.A. – Engineering Consultant
P.O. Box 2259 Asheville, North Carolina 28804
Mike Dowd, PE, Project Manager
828-232-6127 – direct line
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*Samantha Urquhart-Foster
Remedial Project Manager
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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 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 February 20, 2013, filtration systems have been installed in 84 homes.

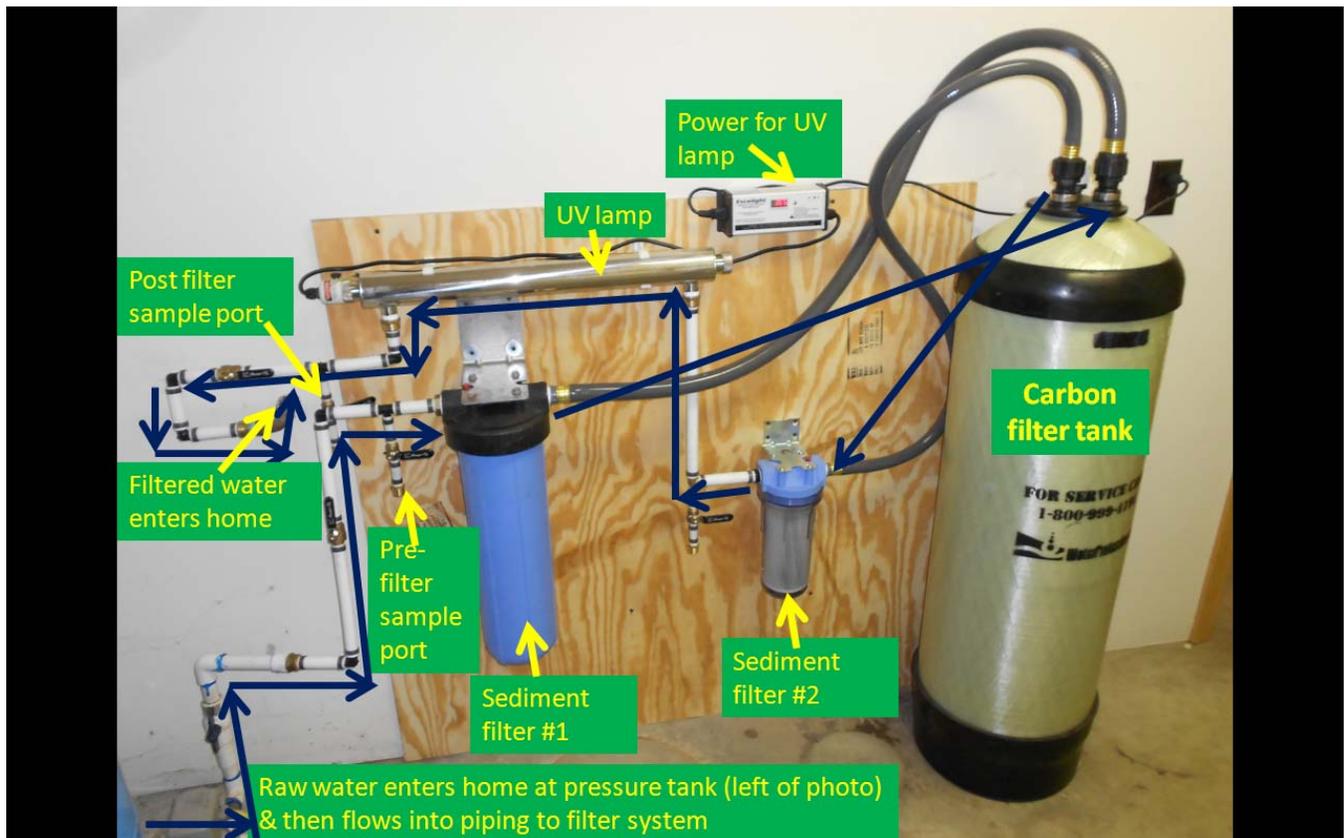
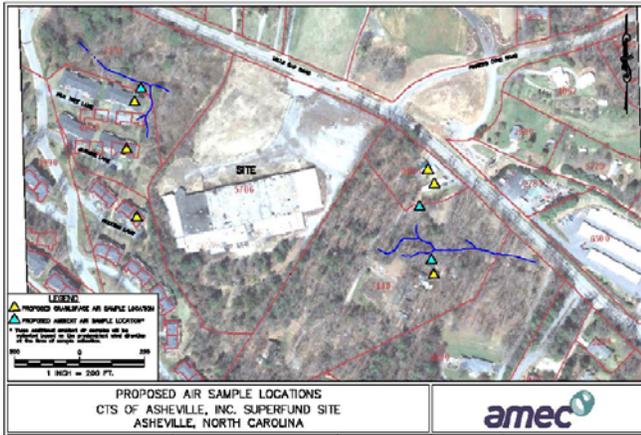


Photo of a system installed at a home in September. Water enters at bottom left of photo from the well/pressure tank and then flows through the system as indicated by blue arrows.

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.

VAPOR INTRUSION ASSESSMENT (AIR SAMPLING)



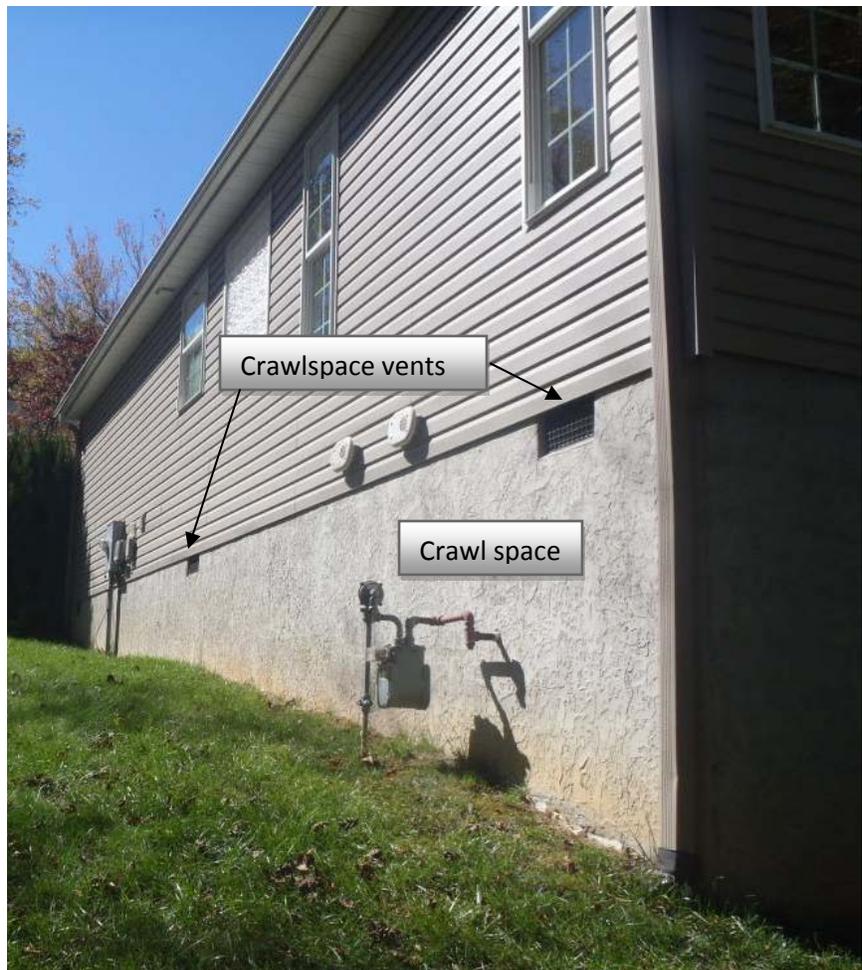
EPA approved AMEC's Vapor Intrusion Assessment Work Plan (Revision 2) in September 2012. The work plan called for collecting air samples within crawl spaces or basements of six homes and collecting outdoor air samples at six locations.

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 CTS Site. EPA has reviewed the report and provided letters to the property owners explaining the results of the risk evaluation.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as TCE and cis-1,2-DCE, may enter homes through contaminated soil, groundwater or air. The photo to the right illustrates open crawlspace vents which allow air to freely flow into the crawl space. Air from the crawl space can enter living spaces of the home by moving upwards through cracks, doorways, etc. The highest air concentration of TCE that was detected in October 2012 was 0.65 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). This concentration does not pose any short-term risks and is within acceptable risk ranges for child and adult residents.

More information about vapor intrusion can be found at:



<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/index.html>

SOIL AND SHALLOW WATER SAMPLING

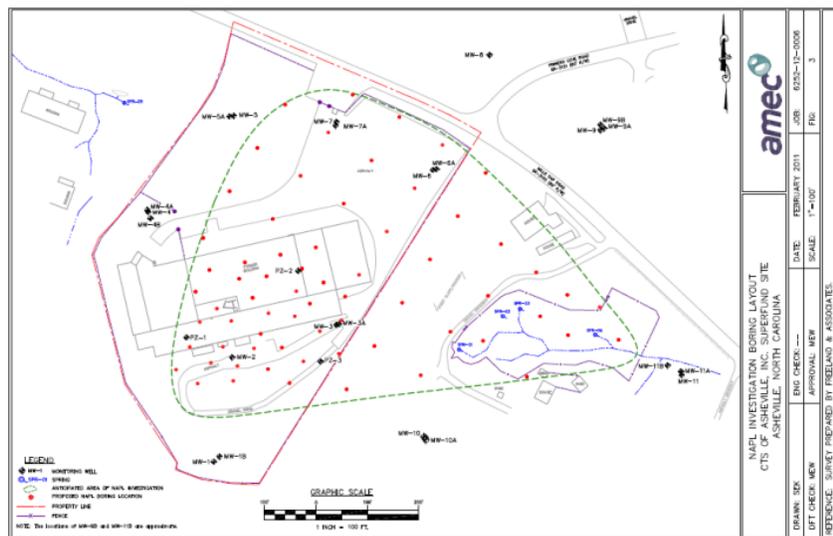
On December 12, 2012, EPA approved AMEC's revised Work Plan for the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) Investigation. The work plan requires samples to be collected on the former CTS plant property and on neighboring property to the east of the site. This sampling event will include collecting samples from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



Planned boring locations for the SVE Confirmation sampling



Planned boring locations for the NAPL investigation

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/#!/CTSAshville?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 and talked with a lot of community members and frequently hear that they don't understand such and such or they have a similar question that someone else has asked. In this section, I will pick a topic to try to explain. If you have suggestions for topics for this segment, please send them to me.

What are the boundaries of the CTS Site? The original 66 acres or the current ~9 acres?

If you guessed "neither" you are correct. When a site is placed on the NPL it is generally described in a way to identify the site by reference to an area. However, the NPL site may not be confined to the boundaries of the former plant acreage, nor include the entire acreage of the former plant. Instead, the site consists of all contaminated areas within the area used to identify the site, as well as any other location where that contamination has come to be located, or from where that contamination came. In this case, contamination has been identified on parcels other than the 9 acres that are currently owned by Mills Gap Road Associates. Therefore,

those other areas where contamination has come to be located that originated from the former CTS plant are also considered to be part of the CTS Site. As the Remedial Investigation (RI) continues, other areas, if found contaminated from the source area, will be considered as part of the site.

Contact Information

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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
8. January 18, 2013