



# COMMUNITY UPDATE INFORMATION SHEET

## CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site

### Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

November 29, 2012

*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 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

EPA has approved AMEC's (CTS Corporation's contractor) revised work plan for drinking water well monitoring. AMEC will conduct the next quarterly well sampling event, with EPA oversight, in January 2013. 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. If you accepted the filtration system offer, your home is already included in the list of homes to sample.

If you did not accept the filtration system offer, but wish to have your well sampled at no cost to you, you must complete a new consent form that will allow CTS Corporation's contractor to perform the sampling. A few of you have already submitted your form. This week, EPA mailed a letter and new consent form to those people that have not submitted one yet that live within a mile radius of the site.

AMEC will use statistical methods to randomly assign homes into a quarter (January, April, July, October) for sampling and will send the list and a map to EPA for review/approval within the next few weeks. We know that some home owners winterize their wells and live in other locations during the winter. Other people go on long vacations during the summer. If there is a reason that you prefer not to have your well tested during a certain time of the year, please let EPA know as soon as possible and we'll try to accommodate that request. Our contact information is included on page 6.



Photo of field testing of pH, turbidity and conductivity during a prior sampling event.

Laboratory analytical results are expected to be received by AMEC 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.

## 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**

Earlier this year, 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.

Over 80 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 November 28, 2012, filtration systems have been installed in 64 homes.

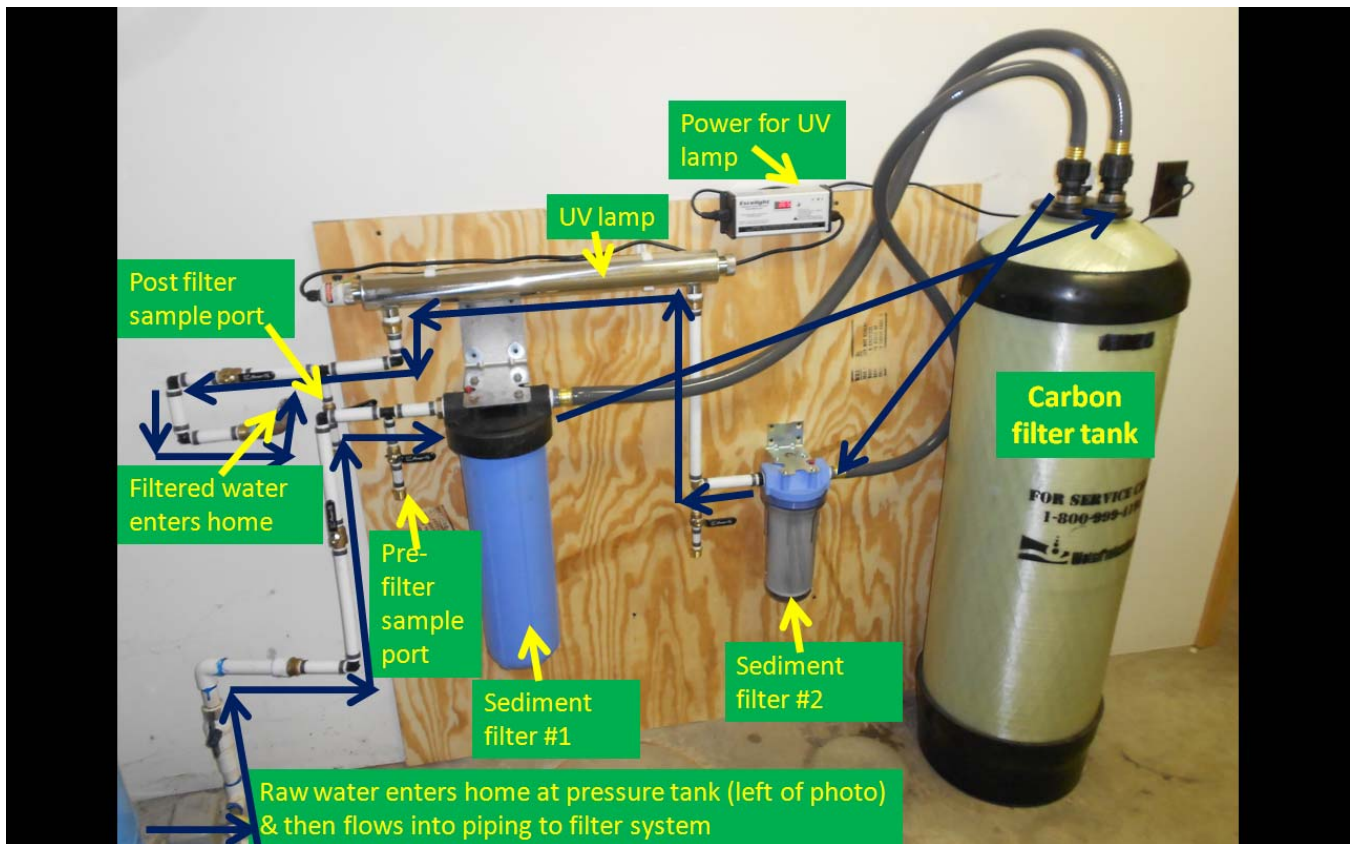


Photo of a system installed at a home in September. Water enters at bottom left of photo from the well/pressure tank and then flows through the system as indicated by blue arrows.

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.



The typical installation takes about 3 to 4 hours to complete. However, installations for some homes may take a day or more to complete due to extra equipment needed or challenging locations to install the equipment. This photo is of a system installed recently that required extra equipment. Because of the number of people that use this well as their water source, two carbon tanks were installed (front/right). The water produced by the well also had issues that required additional equipment to remove excessive iron and to treat hardness (the three tanks in the back of the picture). Although not visible in the photo, sediment filters and UV light are installed on the wall beside the carbon tanks.

If you have items in the way of the proposed installation area, please move them prior to the installation appointment. Within a few days of the installation, an appointment will be needed for a Buncombe County inspector to visit to make sure the work was installed according to code.

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**

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

In September, Buncombe County submitted an application to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Water Resources, for a loan of approximately \$3.5 million dollars 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 received proposals in November 2012, from parties interested in providing design, engineering, and construction administration services for the expansion of water lines to be connected to the Asheville Water Authority System. 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.



## VAPOR INTRUSION ASSESSMENT (AIR SAMPLING)

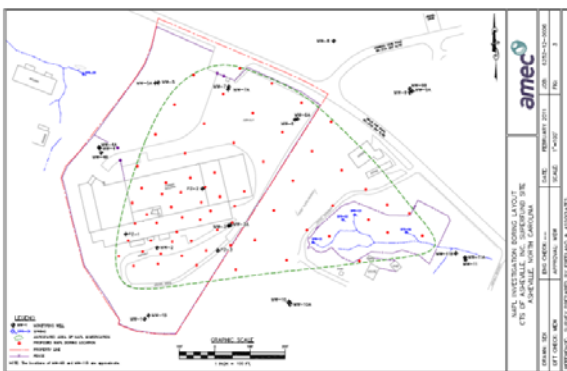


Early in the remedial process, EPA saw a need to prioritize work to be completed for the site. The first priority was to ensure safe drinking water, which is currently underway. The second priority was assessing air quality for residents located next to the Site. EPA approved AMEC's Vapor Intrusion Assessment 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 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. AMEC is currently preparing a Vapor Intrusion Assessment Report to be submitted to EPA. The report will provide a description of the sampling and analysis activities, a tabulation of the analytical results, and a vapor intrusion risk evaluation. A screening-level assessment of potential human health risk associated with detected analytes in the air samples (after data validation and QA/QC evaluation), will be performed. After the data is reviewed for quality assurance, EPA will provide the data to the property owners and determine if additional sampling or other actions are needed.

## SOIL AND SHALLOW WATER SAMPLING



Proposed boring locations for NAPL investigation

EPA's third priority for the site is investigating the extent of contamination of the shallow ground water aquifer. On November 9, 2012, AMEC submitted a revised Work Plan for the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) Investigation. It is currently under review by EPA and NCDENR. After EPA approves the work plan and permission is received to obtain samples on neighboring properties, the sampling will be scheduled. 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.



Proposed boring locations for SVE Confirmation sampling

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 November 8, 2012, the community group POWER submitted a letter to EPA announcing the group's intention to apply 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.

## 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.*

*"Culligan installed a well water filtration system at my home. Now I notice a different odor in the water than before. What should I do?"*

Every well has unique water qualities that change depending on a variety of reasons. A few people have contacted Culligan and/or EPA with this question. In one case, the sulfur-like odor was caused by iron reducing bacteria that had formed because of the high iron content in the water. When Culligan initially tested their water, the iron content was normal. But after investigating this complaint, Culligan determined that the iron content may have been low on the date of the initial test, but had increased. They found that iron reducing bacteria was generating the sulfur-like odor and are following up with

this homeowner to try to fix the problem. Please contact Culligan if you have any issues related to the filter system that they installed in your home. Their local office number is 828-251-2420.

## 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](mailto:MILLER.ANGELA@EPA.GOV)

### **Samantha Urquhart-Foster**

Remedial Project Manager  
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[URQUHART-FOSTER.SAMANTHA@EPA.GOV](mailto:URQUHART-FOSTER.SAMANTHA@EPA.GOV)

### **NCDENR**

**Nile Testerman**  
Environmental Engineer  
919.707.8339 (office)  
[NILE.TESTERMAN@NCDENR.GOV](mailto:NILE.TESTERMAN@NCDENR.GOV)

### **Buncombe County**

**Mandy Stone**  
Assistant County Manager  
828.250.5587 (office)  
[mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org](mailto:mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org)

### **Culligan**

828.251.2420  
[culliganwnc@bellsouth.net](mailto:culliganwnc@bellsouth.net)

### **Community Groups**

**Concerned Citizens for Mills  
Gap Cleanup**  
Glen Horecky  
[Geh4@msn.com](mailto:Geh4@msn.com)

### **POWER**

(Protecting Our Water and  
Environmental Resources)  
Lee Ann Smith  
[Upthishill@bellsouth.net](mailto: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