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

December 11, 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 (CTS Site) is approximately nine acres located on Mills Gap Road in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina, and also includes the areal extent of contamination. 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).

TECHNICAL ADVISOR NEEDED

EPA has awarded a Technical Assitance Grant (TAG) to POWER Action Group. POWER is soliciting proposals to hire a technical advisor to provide assistance in the review and analysis of contaminant investigations and cleanup activities conducted at the CTS Site. If you are interested in applying for the position as a Technical Advisor, go to: http://poweractiongroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/TA-Job-Details.pdf. Applications are due by January 10, 2014 by 5:00 p.m. and should be sent to info@poweractiongroup.org.

SVE CONFIRMATION SAMPLING COMPLETED, RESULTS PENDING

Soil sample being collected by AMEC for the SVE Confirmation Sampling Plan

In November, contractors completed collecting soil samples for the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) confirmation sampling plan. The purpose of that sampling event was to determine if any contamination remains in the soil in the area where the SVE system operated. The contractor sent the samples to a laboratory for analysis. The SVE system operated at the Site during 2006-2010 and removed over 6,000 pounds of volatile chemicals, based on estimates using calculations of air concentrations that were obtained while the system operated. Some community members have claimed that the SVE technology was not appropriate for the soil type at the CTS Site. However, our findings during this and the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPL) Investigation have indicated that the soil at the CTS Site is primarily sands and silts, which are typically very easily treated by SVE. The sample results have not yet been received by EPA; more information will be provided in future Community Updates.

NAPL INVESTIGATION STILL UNDERWAY

MiHpt boring location #50

Activities associated with the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPL) Investigation began on September 23, 2013. The work includes a multi-step process to better understand how deep and wide the highest concentrated contamination exists on and adjacent to the former plant property. Zebra Environmental had a prior commitment for work on another project this week, but will resume work on property adjacent to the eastern boundary of the former CTS plant property during December 16-20th. The contractors will then take a two week break for the holidays and return to work on January 6, 2014.

Tasks 3 and 5 of the NAPL Investigation are still underway. These tasks were combined due to a new Geoprobe® tool that combines these two functions into a single direct push tool called a Membrane Interface Hydraulic Profiling tool (MiHpt). More information about MiHpt can be found at: http://geoprobe.com/mihpt.

Zebra personnel grouting a borehole

As the probe travels through the soil it detects volatile compounds, measures soil electrical conductivity and injection pressure. Computer software estimates hydraulic conductivity and water table elevation, as well as prepares graphical outputs of the data. After borings are completed, the holes are filled with bentonite grout.

Soil from a bore hole in November 2013

As of last week, borings have been completed at 59 locations. The tool is pushed into the ground until it reaches refusal. The tool is then pulled out and soil cores are removed in order to push the tool further into the ground. The maximum depths have varied across the site with a range of 17.2 feet (MHP-22) to 55 feet (MHP-01).

	Feet below land surface
Minimum Depth	17.2
Maximum Depth	55
Average Depth	37.06

EPA received permission from the adjacent property owners along the eastern border of the Site to complete the NAPL Investigation on their properties. So far, 10 of the planned 18 MiHpt borings on their properties have been completed. Work will resume next week.

After the MiHpt borings are completed, the contractors will use a Laser Induced Fluorescence (LIF) tool to help determine the extent of petroleum products NAPL contamination on the CTS Site. After that is completed, data will be reviewed and decisions will be made as to where to collect soil samples to send off for laboratory analysis.

DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

AMEC personnel collecting a water sample in October 2013

The fourth quarterly drinking water sampling event of 2013 was completed during the week of October 14th. **No VOCs have been detected during any of the quarterly sampling events of 2013**.

For homes with Culligan installed whole house water filtration systems, AMEC collected two samples. One sample was collected from water before it enters the filtration system in order to evaluate the quality of the unfiltered ground water and a second sample was collected after the water flows through 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 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. **The laboratory results indicated that no VOCs were detected**. Results letters will be mailed to the property owners whose wells were tested within the next few weeks. The next well water sampling event will occur during the 2nd week of January 2014.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY WATER LINE EXTENSION UPDATE

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

Mandy Stone

Assistant County Manager

828-250-5587

or

Mike Dowd

McGill Associates

828-232-6127

Before the loan can be approved for the extension of the city water supply lines to residents within a one mile radius of the CTS Site, the project has to be considered "ready to construct". This includes completion of the design and acquiring all needed easements. McGill Associates submitted revised design plans to the City of Asheville for their review and approval on November 14th. Once the plans are approved, McGill Associates plans to proceed with advertising for bids for construction. They anticipate construction starting in late February/early March; however, this is contingent upon the County finalizing the loan agreement with the State.

Several factors 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, the project is put out for bid and awarded to a contractor, and funding is received.

For residents that connect to the municipal water system during this project, the City will waive the normal service connection fees.

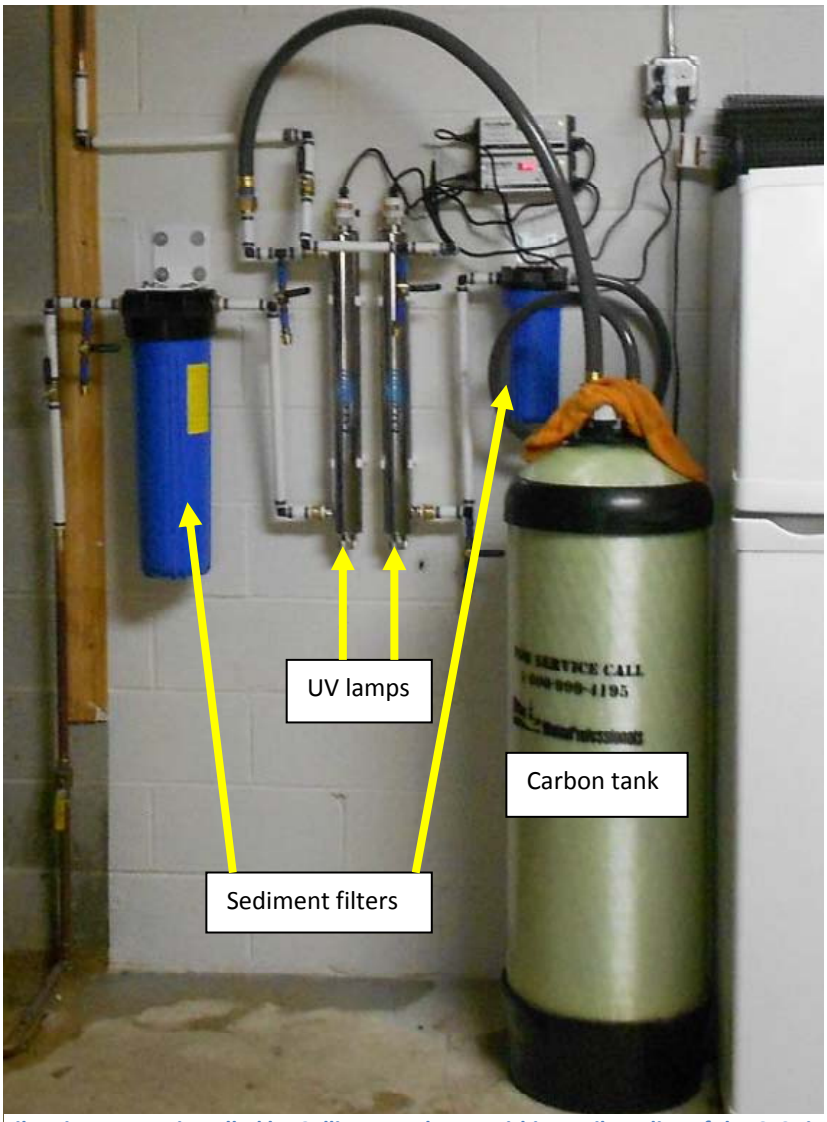
WHOLE HOUSE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE

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 tank, and an ultraviolet light, at a minimum.

Culligan began installing filtration systems on September 11, 2012. As of December 11, 2013, filtration systems have been installed to protect the drinking water of 98 homes and one more is planned for later this week. It is not too late; if you have not accepted the offer for the filtration system yet but would like to, please contact Samantha or Angela. Our contact information is included on the last page.



Filtration system installed by Culligan at a home within a mile radius of the CTS site

The sediment filters are on a 6-month maintenance schedule. For homes that needed a softener in addition to the standard system, the softeners are on a 4-month maintenance schedule. Carbon tanks and UV lights are replaced annually. Culligan will contact home owners/tenants to schedule appointments for maintenance.

The standard 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 water 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.

QUESTION / TOPIC OF THE MONTH

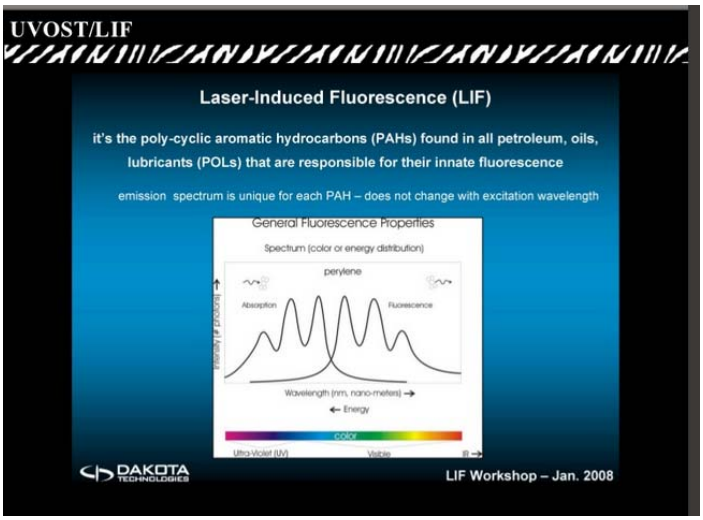
To help better educate the community on topics related to the CTS Site, we created this segment in the community update. If you have concerns or questions that you would like more information on, please let us know.

What is next?

The Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) investigation will continue into January and possibly into February. As soon as the MiHpt borings are completed, work will begin using a Laser Induced Fluorescence (LIF) tool. Petroleum product releases are believed to have occurred on the CTS Site, and LIF is a great profiling tool to help us determine the extent of petroleum products NAPL contamination. Using LIF, light is transmitted to a window in the side of the probe rod. If excitable compounds, such as petroleum products, are present in the soil as the probe pushes downward, they will yield fluorescence which is transmitted to a detector. The amount of fluorescence, or energy, transmitted is proportional to the NAPL saturation. The type of NAPL (i.e., diesel, fuel oil, kerosene, etc.) is also indicated because the compounds each have unique waveforms that can be evaluated with the LIF detector.

After the LIF task has been completed, contractors and EPA will review the information that has been obtained so far in the NAPL Investigation and determine where samples should be collected from to be sent to a laboratory for analysis.

After the NAPL Investigation is completed, the data will be evaluated and contractors will prepare a report. The next phase will be the creation of a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Work Plan. This document will outline data gaps and planned needs for studies to determine the full extent of contamination so that comprehensive cleanup plans can be determined.



Slide from Zebra Environmental website: http://www.slideshare.net/zebraenvironmental/zebra-direct-sensing-mipcpthptlif

In the meantime, well water sampling and filtration system installation and maintenance will continue. The next quarterly well water sampling event is planned for the 2nd week of January.

Empty barrel at the fence line near the back of the CTS Site

Also upcoming will be the collection of air samples on the properties adjacent to the east boundary of the former plant property. Those property owners recently gave CTS Corporation permission to collect air samples on their property, with EPA providing oversight.

And coming soon will be the removal of plastic barrels and other debris that were found at the Site years ago.

In other words, it will be a busy winter for work planned at the CTS Site!

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

Websites created by community members

- Clean Asheville: http://cleanasheville.info
- POWER Action Group: http://poweractiongroup.org

EPA is aware of two community groups that have formed regarding the CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site.

POWER Action Group was established in August 2012 and is led by Lee Ann Smith. POWER stands for Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources. POWER is the recipient of EPA's Technical Assistance Grant, meets monthly, communicates with EPA regularly, and maintains a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/CTSAsheville and a website: http://poweractiongroup.org. If you are interested in learning more about or joining this community group please contact Ms. Smith at upthishill@bellsouth.net.

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 Mr. Horecky at geh4@msn.com.

Previous Community Updates include 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
9. February 21, 2013
10. April 8, 2013
11. May 15, 2013
12. June 27, 2013
13. July 29, 2013
14. September 6, 2013
15. September 30, 2013
16. November 4, 2013

Contact Information

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Community Groups
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GEH4@MSN.COM

TAG Recipient:
POWER Action Group
(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, and the vapor intrusion assessment has been completed for property owners that gave permission for sampling. 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.