



COMMUNITY UPDATE INFORMATION SHEET

CTS of Asheville, Inc. Superfund Site

Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

February 18, 2014

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 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).

NAPL INVESTIGATION FIELD WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Activities associated with the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPL) Investigation began on September 23, 2013, and were completed on February 5, 2014. The work included a multi-step process to better understand how deep and wide the highest concentrated contamination exists on and next to the former plant property. The work was divided into the following 9 tasks:

- Task 1: Measure depth to water in monitoring wells
- Task 2: Gauge monitoring wells/piezometers for NAPL; sample NAPL if identified
- Task 3: Conduct Membrane Interface Probe (MIP) investigation
- Task 4: Conduct Laser Induced Fluorescence (LIF) investigation
- Task 5: Conduct Hydraulic Profiling Tool (HPT) investigation
- Task 6: Review direct sensing data
- Task 7: Collect soil samples
- Task 8: Collect groundwater samples
- Task 9: Survey soil/groundwater boring locations



LIF analyzer and computer software readout for a boring in January 2014 (Task 4)

The sampling activities were completed on February 5, 2014. According to the schedule, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. will submit the report of the NAPL Investigation to EPA within 81 days of the submission of the last sample to the laboratory. Therefore, EPA anticipates receiving the report in late April.



AMEC collecting a groundwater sample (Task 8) in January 2014

DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING



AMEC personnel collecting a water sample in January 2014

The first quarterly drinking water sampling event of 2014 occurred during the week of January 14th. Sample results are expected to be received in February. **Preliminary data indicates that volatile organic compounds were not detected.**

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 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. Final analytical results are expected to be received in February 2014. EPA will mail letters to property owners whose water was sampled after results are received. The next well water sampling event is planned to occur during the 2nd week of April 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

On January 21, 2014, Buncombe County received bids from contractors for the CTS Water Line Extension project. The project generally consists of the construction of approximately 7,700 lineal feet of 8-inch and 6,500 lineal feet of 6-inch ductile iron water line and appurtenances including fire hydrants, approximately 156 meter services, 140 pressure reducing valves, 3 residential booster pumps and approximately 47,000 lineal feet of ¾" through 2" service lines connecting to existing house service lines. Construction is estimated to start in late February or in March and may take about a year to complete the connections for all of the residents.

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

If you are within the mile radius of the CTS Site and do not want to connect to city water, please let us know.

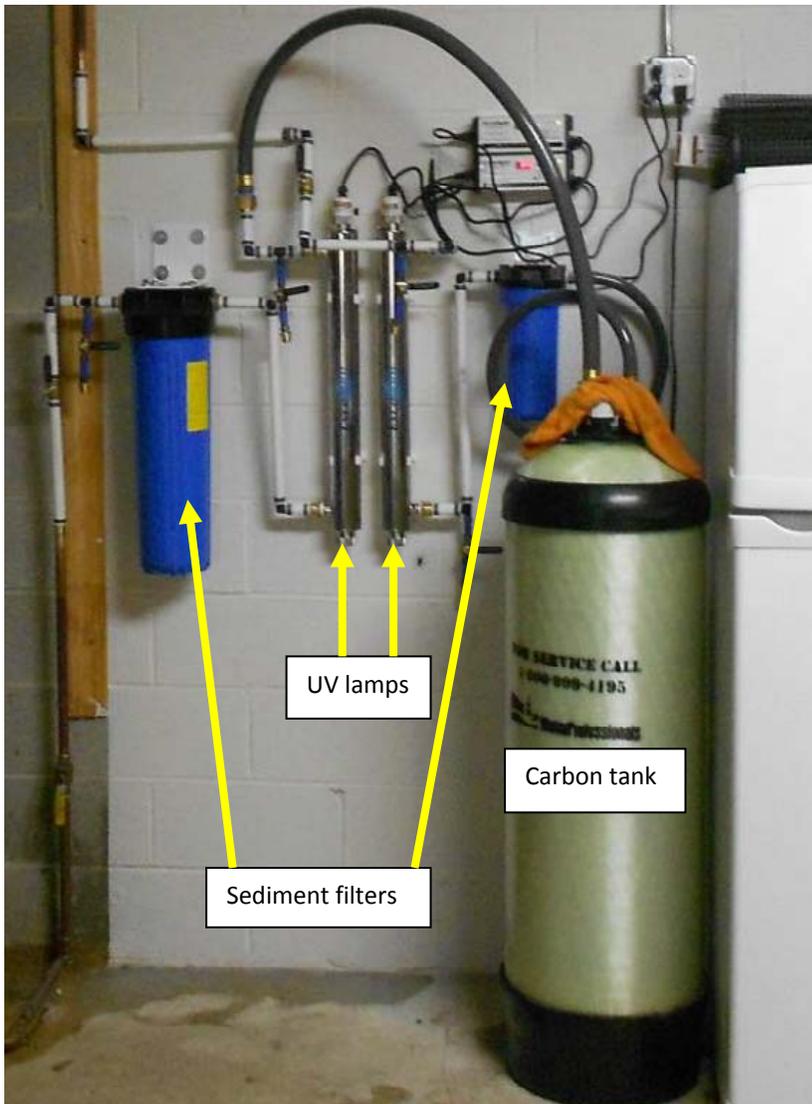
WHOLE HOUSE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE

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 today, filtration systems have been installed to protect the drinking water of 100 homes. 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, when 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.

I have free well water now. Why would I want to connect to city water and have to start paying a water bill?

There are many different things to consider when you are trying to make the decision of whether or not you want to accept the offer to connect to city water under the CTS Water Line Extension Project. For a limited time, if you live within a mile radius of the CTS Site, Buncombe County will pay for the installation of water lines and connection to your home. Your only cost will be the bi-monthly water bill, which for the average family would be about \$22 per month (\$44 bi-monthly). The actual amount may be lower or higher depending on how much water your family uses.

Using well water may seem like it is free because you don't have a regular bill to pay, but there are costs associated with using well water that you may not have thought about. In addition to costs, there are other factors to consider. Below are a few points to think about:

- Electricity – Getting water from your well requires electricity, city water does not. Using a well makes your power bill higher than if you used city water. And if the power goes out during a storm, you won't be able to get water from your well, which means you'll need to keep a supply of bottled water handy.
- Drought – Asheville had record rainfall during 2013, but has experienced droughts in the past. Some wells dry up during a drought which means having to buy bottled water or digging a deeper well.
- Pumps – Like all mechanical items, eventually pumps fail. Replacing a well pump can cost thousands of dollars.
- Leaky Pipes – We've found that the water is acidic (pH of less than 6.5) from many wells in the area. Acidic water corrodes copper piping and eventually small holes or leaks develop in the piping. I know quite a few of you have had to replace your piping in recent years because of these holes/leaks. If your pipes develop a leak, this could lead to a large expense of not only replacing the pipes, but also repairing water damage to your home.
- Discolored clothes, sinks, toilets, etc. – We've also noticed that water from many wells in the area have a lot of iron in it. This causes a redish/orange staining of clothes, sinks, toilets, bathtubs, etc. which results in either investing in a filtration system to remove the iron or putting more effort into cleaning. If you've dreamed of the day that you can wear white clothing or have crisp white towels, connecting to city water may turn that dream into a reality.
- Sampling – EPA recommends that well owners test their water once a year for pH, nitrates, nitrites, coliform bacteria, and other contaminants. This is an expense that you will not have if you connect to city water, because they are required to test the water and report the results. The City of Asheville posts its annual water quality testing reports under the General Information heading at: <http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Departments/Water.aspx>.
- Bacteria – When designing the Culligan filtration systems in the area, we have found that about half of the homes had bacteria in their water. Septic tanks or well construction could be the cause. Most coliform bacteria do not cause disease. However some can cause illness, especially in children, elderly adults, and people with weak immune systems.
- Taste – Some of you have complained that your well water tastes or smells bad. Others say that they love the taste of their well water and cannot stand the taste of city water.

These are just a few points to ponder. We hope this information helps you to make a better informed decision regarding whether or not to connect to city water.

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/CTSAshville>

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. After interviewing several applicants, POWER has selected a Technical Advisor. More information will be provided after the contract is signed.

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
17. December 11, 2013

Contact Information

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Community Groups

Concerned Citizens for Mills Gap Cleanup

Glen Horecky

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 in prior updates. 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.