

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

January 14, 2023

1. **Billings PCE Superfund Site Update** – There will be a community Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM at Broadwater Elementary, 415 Broadwater Avenue. The EPA and MDEQ will host an informational meeting on the Billings PCE Superfund site. (See attached flyers)
2. **Summa Air Sampling Canisters** – Next week Summa air sampling canisters will be placed in the following parks: North, South, Pioneer, Optimist and Mountview. Each canister will have a placard (see testing sign attachment.) They will be conducting indoor air sampling of about 200 structures using an EPA TAGA mobile laboratory and setting up approximately 80 Summa canisters in selected structures for 24-hour sampling.
3. **Bi-weekly Legislative Videoconferences** – Please join us for bi-weekly Legislative Videoconferences connecting Billings to our legislative delegation in Helena. Come and grab a bite over the lunch hour and hear from our local legislators and/or offer feedback on issues that arise throughout the session. These events are free and open to the public. Please be sure to [register here](#) so we have a good count for food. See what our local legislators are working on by checking out our [Legislative Roster and database](#). Videoconferences will be held in the MSU Billings Liberal Arts Building, Room 208 on the following dates:

January 19th

February 2nd

February 16th

March 2nd

March 16th

March 30th

April 13th

The Legislative Videoconferences are made possible by partnership with MSU Billings and the sponsorship of the Billings Association of REALTORS, Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Alliance and the City of Billings.

4. **Crime Prevention** – throughout the week I had several meetings advancing discussions on crime prevention including parks, rec, trails with the governor, staff, council members, YMCA, BSED, and the Chamber.
5. **Council Committees** – The Local Affairs, Budget & Finance and Legislative Committees all held meetings this week.
6. **Next Week's Meeting/Task Forces**
 - a. Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16 CITY OFFICES ARE CLOSED.
 - b. West End Task Force, Tuesday, January 17th 7:00 pm, Connections Church, 56th Street West and Grand Avenue.
 - c. Pioneer Park Task Force, Tuesday, January 17th 7:00 pm Black Dog, 3115 10th Avenue N.
 - d. Rimrock Neighborhoods, Wednesday, January 18th 7:00 pm Mayflower Cong Church, 2940 Poly Drive.
 - e. Southside Task Force, Thursday, January 19th 6:30 pm Hope Center, 425 S. 28th
 - f. Central Terry Task Force, Thursday, January 19th 7:00 pm Topline Hair, 1331 Central Avenue.

7. From the PIO Desk:

Community 7 Public Safety Update – City Attorney & City Administrator

<https://youtu.be/cIG9x0JrusM>

From EPA & MT DEQ – Superfund site meeting

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2424>

Governor's forum

Billings Chief of Police Rich St. John speaks on public safety during a roundtable discussion with Governor Gianforte

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-chief-of-police-rich-st-john-speaks-on-public-safety-during-a-roundtable-discussion/video_e847130f-9a47-5359-a549-f5153b54115d.html

Mayor Bill Cole speaks during a roundtable discussion on public safety with Governor Gianforte

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/mayor-bill-cole-speaks-during-a-roundtable-discussion-on-public-safety-with-governor-gianforte/video_8f242b61-c14c-52ba-a5ac-0f07ffb6b217.html

Human trafficking, public safety focus of Billings forum with Gov. Gianforte

<https://www.ktvq.com/homepage-showcase/human-trafficking-public-safety-focus-of-billings-forum-with-gov-gianforte>

Q2's Public Safety series

Billings boosts code enforcement with levy dollars to fight crime

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/billings-boosts-code-enforcement-with-levy-dollars-to-fight-crime>

New mobile team boosting fire response in Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/new-mobile-team-boosting-fire-response-in-billings>

‘Well received’: Billings community service officers two weeks away from completing training

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/well-received-billings-community-service-officers-two-weeks-away-from-completing-training>

Police Department

Billings police arrest man for sexual assault at Walmart

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/billings-police-arrest-man-for-sexual-assault-at-a-walmart/article_7ef0dbf4-b6c4-58ea-8244-f6ee70d334a2.html

Are Billings taxpayers getting the best from law enforcement? Simple answer – Yes!

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/are-billings-taxpayers-getting-the-best-from-law-enforcement-simple-answer-yes/>

Billings police standoff ends in arrest, homicide investigation

<https://www.ypradio.org/crime-courts/2023-01-09/billings-police-standoff-ends-in-arrest-homicide-investigation>

Billings family was holding a birthday party when gunman barged in Sunday night

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-family-was-holding-a-birthday-party-when-gunner-barged-in-sunday-night/article_3812bab8-9027-11ed-ad03-c3e184283000.html

Shooting victim in Sunday night crime-spree identified

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/shooting-victim-in-sunday-night-crime-spree-identified/article_22871b4e-03ec-5cf0-9ef6-1bf57e5dc0e4.html

Standoff & homicide rock Billings midtown Sunday night

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/124/p/suspect-barricaded-in-house-at-1200-blk-of-burlington-in-billings/>

Murder suspect arrested following standoff in Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/law-enforcement-responding-to-standoff-in-billings>

First responders rescue man stuck in tree in downtown Billings

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/first-responders-rescue-man-stuck-in-tree-in-downtown-billings/article_086068ca-46af-51ac-a9d2-60a1f139fa8d.html

Downtown Billings reopens after mental health crisis

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/124/p/man-on-roof-in-downtown-billings-closes-division-and-grand-ave/>

Police respond to man on roof in downtown Billings

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/police-respond-to-man-on-roof-in-downtown-billings/article_b84fcb2a-8e11-11ed-8f13-07b596c87a20.html

Police trying to coax man off downtown Billings roof

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/police-trying-to-coax-man-off-downtown-billings-roof>

City Council

Developer for Zimmerman Trail housing and retail project in west Billings goes back to the drawing board

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/developer-for-zimmerman-trail-housing-and-retail-project-in-west-billings-goes-back-to-the/article_46a29b02-905e-11ed-90b9-67ef090f02c48.html

Parks

City of Billings considering tree diversity amidst climate change

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/city-of-billings-considering-tree-diversity-amidst-climate-change>

Library

Billings library launches discreet and accessible 'community cabinet' for the unhoused

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-library-launches-discreet-and-accessible-community-cabinet-for-the-unhoused>

Fire

Tips to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/tips-to-prevent-carbon-monoxide-poisoning/article_86582792-4cb6-5523-8bc8-e058fb0a2c21.html

Community Meeting

EPA and MDEQ will host an informational meeting on the Billings PCE Superfund site.

When: January 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Where:

Broadwater Elementary
415 Broadwater Ave
Billings, MT 59101



Contact Information

U.S. EPA Region 8

Roger Hoogerheide, Remedial Project Manager
t: 406-422-9725 | e: hoogerheide.roger@epa.gov

Montana DEQ Waste Management & Remediation Division Office

Jason Rappe, Remedial Project Officer
t: 406-444-6442 | ~~800-246-8198~~ | e: jason.rappe@mt.gov

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Dawn Nelson, State Toxicologist
t: 406-444-6910 | e: dawn.nelson@mt.gov

Web Links

EPA website to learn more about the Superfund program:
www.epa.gov/superfund

EPA website for more information about Billings PCE site:
www.epa.gov/superfund/billings-pce

Find Information About:

- The Billings PCE Superfund Site
- Upcoming investigations
- Project contacts for EPA, DEQ, and DPHHS
- Web links on Superfund, vapor intrusion, and chemicals of concern
- The January 2023 public meeting



EPA

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency



DPHHS

Department of Public Health & Human Services



DEQ

Montana Department
of Environmental Quality



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US Environmental Protection Agency

10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
Attn: R. Hoogerheide

Billings PCE Superfund Site Update

December 2022



The Site

The Billings PCE Superfund Site (Site) consists of shallow groundwater contamination, extending from 24th and Central Avenue approximately three miles, east-northeast, through several mixed-use neighborhoods to the east of downtown Billings. Contaminated groundwater may produce indoor air concerns. In September 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Site to the Superfund National Priorities List, making the Site eligible for federal funding to expand environmental investigation and cleanup activities.



Contamination

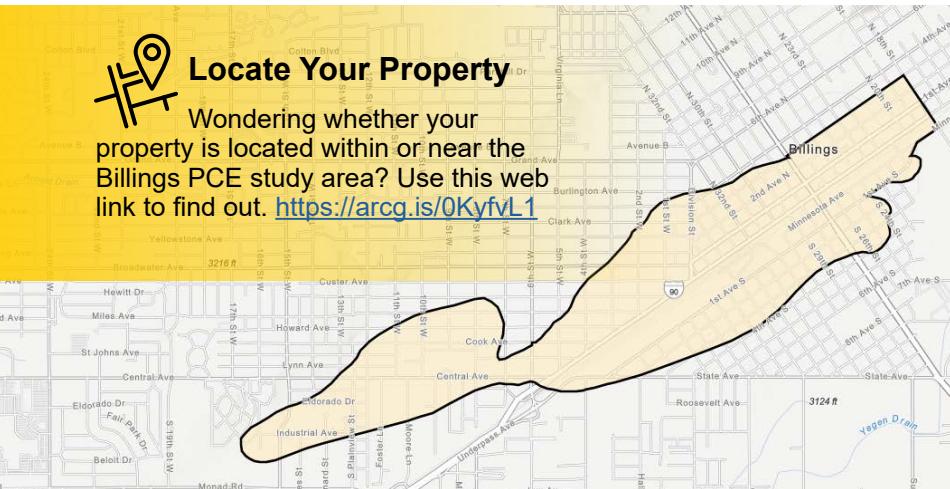
The primary contaminants of concern at the Site are chlorinated, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) including tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride as well as petroleum hydrocarbons. These contaminants can evaporate from shallow groundwater and contaminated soils underneath buildings and enter the indoor air through a process commonly called "vapor intrusion".

These vapors can be inhaled and may pose short-term and long-term risks to public health. Contaminated groundwater may also pose a health concern if it is used for drinking water or residential uses. Contaminated soils may also pose a health concern to on-Site workers who contact the soils, which can continue to be a source of contamination for the groundwater plume if not addressed.



Locate Your Property

Wondering whether your property is located within or near the Billings PCE study area? Use this web link to find out. <https://arcg.is/0Kyfvl1>



If you would like to have your house or business tested for vapor intrusion contamination or your irrigation well sampled, email or call: **Roger Hoogerheide, EPA Remedial Project Manager** e: hoogerheide.roger@epa.gov | t: (406) 422-9725



What is Vapor Intrusion?

Vapor intrusion is a way that VOCs in soil or groundwater may enter buildings and contaminate air inside the structure (indoor air). Chlorinated VOCs are liquids that can evaporate easily and become a vapor capable of moving through the air and soil. When a chemical is released, either from a spill above ground or leak underground, it has the potential to enter groundwater and travel through the soil and water underground. If that chemical is volatile, it can become a vapor, and seep through openings, like cracks in basements, foundations, sewer lines, or into nearby buildings.

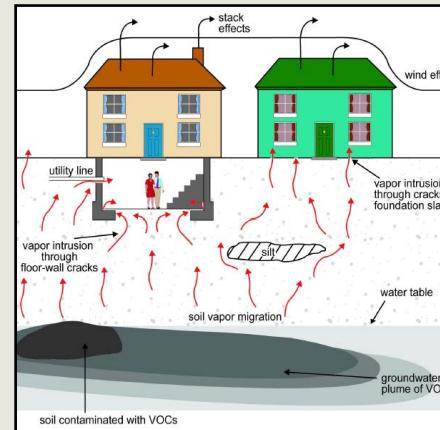
Factsheet: What is vapor intrusion?
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/docs/vapor-intrusion_508.pdf



Why is Vapor Intrusion Important to Me?

When vapors intrude indoors, you can be exposed by breathing indoor air. This exposure may cause health effects, depending on the type and amount of chemical, as well as how often and how long you are exposed.

A person exposed to high amounts of PCE and TCE vapors for a short amount of time might experience dizziness, headaches, nausea, and poor coordination. A person exposed to lower amounts of PCE and TCE vapors over a longer period of time might experience harmful health effects including neurological symptoms, immune effects, liver or kidney effects, or certain cancers.



While groundwater is not used for potable water, a person may be exposed to these chemicals if they drink water from a contaminated irrigation well or use contaminated irrigation water for recreational purposes such as watering houseplants, filling a pool, or playing in sprinklers.

What is Superfund?

Superfund is EPA's program for cleaning up some of America's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters.



2022 Activities

March/April – Collected indoor air, sub-slab vapor and soil gas samples in 48 structures. Results indicate that nine residential structures are impacted by vapor intrusion. EPA is taking action to protect public health (see "Upcoming Activities" below).

May and October – Collected groundwater samples from approximately 80 monitoring wells and 40 residential wells to better determine the underground locations and concentrations of contaminants during high-water and low-water seasons. Results are pending.

August – Collected 103 soil gas samples to delineate the soil gas plume. Thirty-five samples were collected from the municipal sewer lines to determine if contaminants may be entering structures by moving through sewer lines or utility corridors. Results are pending.

October/November – Sampled crawlspace air and/or sub-slab vapor from 112 structures, to determine if these structures were also being impacted by vapor intrusion. Results are pending.



Upcoming Activities

November 2022 through February 2023 – Work with property owners to install vapor mitigation systems (similar to radon mitigation systems) at nine impacted structures. These systems are anticipated to be installed in early 2023.

January/February 2023 – Screen up to 200 structures using EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratory. TAGA uses a 300-foot tube and on-board instrumentation to analyze indoor air and map the results in real time. This information can be used to determine if these structures are being impacted by vapor intrusion and identify locations where vapors may be entering.

May and October 2023 – Collect additional groundwater samples from existing monitoring wells. Additional irrigation wells will also be sampled. EPA will also work with an environmental contractor to begin a comprehensive groundwater investigation and evaluate cleanup alternatives to address the groundwater contamination.

Fall 2023 – The Agencies will prepare the Feasibility Study to address the indoor air contamination exposure pathway. The Feasibility Study is the way the Agencies conduct the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of cleanup alternatives. Once finalized, EPA will issue a Proposed Plan detailing the preferred cleanup alternative for public review and comment.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Testing in Progress

Please do not disturb

This device is being utilized to collect environmental samples of ambient air on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as part of on-going investigation of the Billings PCE Site. Tampering with this device may interfere with data collection efforts. Please contact the USEPA Project Managers Roger Hoogerheide (406-422-9725) if you have any questions.