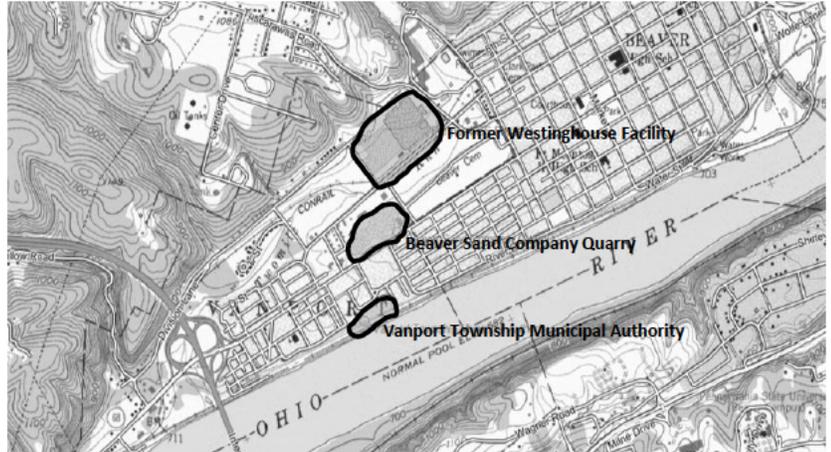


CBS Vanport/Vanport Township Municipal Authority Site Proposed Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act Response

HISTORY

The Vanport Township Municipal Authority (VTMA) owns and operates a water supply system that serves the residents of Vanport Township, Brighton Township, and Ohioville Borough in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. In January 1988, samples from various points in the VTMA water supply system indicated the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE), an industrial solvent commonly used as a degreaser for metal parts. TCE is a carcinogen with significant health risks. For that reason, state and federal regulations limit the maximum concentration of TCE in drinking water to 5 parts per billion (ppb).

Since 1988, sample results from groundwater wells upgradient of the VTMA water supply system have consistently showed TCE levels above 100 ppb.



A former Westinghouse facility is located in Vanport approximately 1,500 feet north of the Ohio River and the VTMA water supply system. Between 1947 and 1987, Westinghouse used TCE at the facility for degreasing metal parts and components. In 1988 and 1989, investigations by both DEP and Westinghouse found TCE in the groundwater aquifer underneath the facility. The investigations also found that the contaminated aquifer underneath the facility was the same aquifer used by VTMA to supply water to the residents of Vanport Township, Brighton Township, and Ohioville Borough.

In June 1989, Westinghouse entered into a Consent Order and Agreement (CO&A) with DEP requiring Westinghouse to do the following:

- Install air stripping towers at the VTMA pumping wells to clean the water as necessary, to ensure that TCE in the water provided to residents is below the Safe Drinking Water Act standard of 5 ppb.
- Sample the raw water in the VTMA pumping wells and groundwater monitoring wells in the VTMA aquifer and submit monthly progress reports to DEP.
- Pay VTMA for the operation and maintenance costs of the air stripping towers.
- Continue these payments until, for 15 consecutive sampling periods, the raw water entering the towers shows TCE at less than 5 ppb.
- Reinstate payments for operation and maintenance of the air stripping towers if future sampling shows that TCE in the raw water entering the towers is 5 ppb or greater.

In 1995, CBS Corporation merged with Westinghouse and became responsible for Westinghouse's environmental liabilities.

PRESENT STATUS

CBS continued its payment for the air stripping towers at the VTMA until June 2016. In June 2016, CBS advised DEP that sample results show that TCE in the raw, untreated water entering the air stripping towers has been below 5 ppb since October 2012. CBS advised that, consistent with the 1989 COA, it would no longer pay to sample the raw water entering the towers. CBS advised it was stopping payments for the operation and maintenance costs of the towers. CBS advised that while it would no longer sample the raw water entering the towers, it would sample select groundwater wells until sometime in June 2017.

It should be emphasized that the raw water entering the air stripping towers at the VTMA currently meets the TCE Safe Drinking Water standard of 5 ppb. Nonetheless, elevated levels of TCE in upgradient groundwater wells continue to threaten contamination of the VTMA water supply system.

Although CBS believes that operation of the air strippers is not currently necessary given the sampling data it has collected, VTMA continues to operate the strippers through its own funds to safeguard against any return of its drinking water to unsafe levels of TCE.

PROPOSED RESPONSE

DEP plans a limited interim response under the Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act to address the TCE in the upgradient groundwater and the potential for unsafe levels of TCE to migrate to the VTMA water supply system. DEP evaluated three alternatives to address the ongoing threat of TCE:

1. Take no action;
2. Subsidize monthly sampling of the raw water entering VTMA's air stripping towers, as well as select groundwater wells in the VTMA aquifer; or
3. Continue monthly sampling of raw water entering the towers and of groundwater wells in the VTMA aquifer; undertake fate and transport modeling of the TCE groundwater plume using existing groundwater data and additional data as needed, to better understand the direction and strength of groundwater flow; collect soil and surface water samples to better define areas that might be feeding TCE into the groundwater; and assess the efficiency, future viability, and alternatives to the VTMA air stripping towers and the pump and treat system operating at the Westinghouse facility.

DEP has selected the third alternative, which will cost approximately \$600,000. This alternative is cost-effective and protective, as it should: (a) provide DEP a better basis to assess the TCE threat to the VTMA water supply system and steps needed to address that threat; and (b) assure that the air stripping towers and pump and treat system are operating with optimal efficiency and with the least risk of breakdown.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Administrative Record is open for review and comment from January 14, 2017, until April 14, 2017. Administrative Record reviews are by appointment only, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. Call (412) 442-4000 for an appointment with Regional Files, located at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Regional Office.

Written comments on the Administrative Record may be directed to Annette Paluh, Project Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional public information on the CBS Vanport/Vanport Township Municipal Authority Site is available on DEP's web page, at <http://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SouthwestRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/default.aspx>