

Riggs Park Fact Sheet

May 3, 2010

DDOE Final Remedy Selection for the Riggs Park Community



District Department of the Environment
Government of the District of Columbia

History of Contamination and Actions Taken at Riggs Park

- ◆ In October 1989, there was a reported release of an unknown amount of gasoline from an underground storage tank at a Chevron Service Station located at 5801 Riggs Road in Chillum, Maryland. The release was initially addressed by the Maryland Dept. of the Environment (MDE). MDE required Chevron to install a groundwater remediation system to remove the gasoline from the ground water. The system has been in operation since 1990.
- ◆ In April, 2001, the gasoline plume was reported to have migrated into the District of Columbia, forming a plume underneath a residential area known as the Lamond-Riggs Park community. The community is just south of the boundary between the District and Maryland.
- ◆ In October 2001, then-Councilmember Adrian Fenty asked EPA to assume responsibility for the contaminant investigation. Through a series of orders, EPA has required that Chevron investigate the extent of groundwater and vapor contamination, expand the operation of the existing groundwater remediation system, and install vapor mitigation systems in certain homes.
- ◆ During the summer of 2002, EPA additionally investigated perchloroethylene (PCE) contamination within parts of the groundwater plume at Riggs Park, but concluded that levels were low, and/or may not be related to the gasoline-contaminated groundwater. Nonetheless, DDOE pursued this matter further in a 2008 study.
- ◆ In addition to the investigations carried out by Chevron pursuant to the EPA Orders, there have been additional studies, including vapor contamination testing by the District. Most importantly, between January and September, 2008, DDOE contractor S.S. Papadopoulos and Associates performed an exhaustive study of more than 100 homes, taking in-home air samples, outdoor ambient air samples, sub-slab vapor samples, sub-surface samples, and groundwater samples.
- ◆ On February 20, 2009, based upon its review of the 2008 data and an administrative record, DDOE issued its proposed Remedy Selection for Riggs Park, identifying up to 45 homes as potentially qualifying for VMS installation due to potentially unacceptable risks posed by potential vapor intrusion.
- ◆ During a 45-day public comment period, the District received numerous comments on its proposed remedy. The District has considered all comments received, and is now issuing its "Final Remedy Selection and Response to Comments".

Summary of the District's Final Remedy Selection Process

- ◆ The District's final remedy selection recommends the installation of vapor mitigation systems in all residences or inhabited buildings in Riggs Park at which the subsurface contaminant levels meet at least one of the following key criteria:
 - ◇ exceed a 1×10^{-5} cumulative cancer risk or exceed a hazard index of 1 for cumulative non-cancer risk, posed by the contaminants of concern, that are also attributable to groundwater contamination.
 - ◇ home's basement is in close proximity to groundwater with elevated concentrations of contaminants of concern that are also attributable to groundwater contamination.
 - ◇ home located on the same building slab or in the immediate vicinity of other homes meeting the above criteria.
- ◆ Based primarily on the District's 2008 data and the 2010 risk assessment and using the above-stated key criteria, the District finds that 22 residences have measured subsurface soil vapor concentrations at levels that pose unacceptable potential human health risks; 1 residence has measured soil vapor or groundwater concentrations at levels that pose an unacceptable potential human health risks; and 20 residences have no directly measured data but were evaluated using statistical data extrapolations, and subsequently projected to possibly pose unacceptable potential human health risks. In the final analysis, it was determined that a total of 43 homes qualify for VMS installation.

The Selected Remedy

- ◆ The primary goal of this study was to identify the homes at Riggs Park that may be at risk from vapors in the subsurface associated with contaminated groundwater. The majority of homes sampled in the Riggs Park neighborhood did *not* show elevated levels of the groundwater-related contaminants of concern.
- ◆ For the potentially impacted homes, a VMS is recommended to divert vapors emanating from beneath affected homes, thereby removing the potential for future intrusion of contaminants into these homes.
- ◆ For more information on this project, please visit the Lamond Riggs Branch Library and/or DDOE's Riggs Park website: <http://ddoe.dc.gov/RiggsPark>.
- ◆ The Department of Health's Summary of Results for its 2009 health survey is attached to the Final Remedy Selection as Appendix C, and is available as part of the Administrative Record.
- ◆ If you have questions or concerns about indoor air contaminants that are not linked to groundwater in your home, and their potential health effects, please contact Lora Werner, ATSDR, at 215.814.3141 or at lkw9@cdc.gov for more information.

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