

Why did the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) choose to monitor and test in Franklin Village?

MDEQ has an ongoing, statewide effort to investigate indoor air quality resulting from known contamination sites. Site contamination is identified in many ways, sometimes from a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA). A BEA is an evaluation of environmental conditions at a property prior to being purchased and focuses on detecting the presence of hazardous substances.

The Franklin Village Plaza was the site of a BEA. When the property was purchased in 2010, soil and groundwater sampling was conducted and elevated levels of chemicals were discovered. The BEA was submitted to the MDEQ in January 2011. This prompted MDEQ to begin additional testing to determine if risks to human health and the environment are present.

What chemicals were found?

The 2011 BEA indicated that the chemicals Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were likely present at the property. TCE and PCE are commonly used in dry cleaning and metal degreasing.

How did TCE and PCE get there in the first place?

The BEA specified that TCE and PCE were likely present due to a previous dry cleaner and gas station that were on the property in the 1930s - 1970s. The current dry cleaner currently located in the plaza did not release these chemicals and does not conduct dry cleaning or store chemicals onsite.

What is the purpose of the testing?

Chemicals released in the environment can move through soil and groundwater. Some chemicals, such as TCE and PCE, easily evaporate and become a vapor in the air. These vapors can enter buildings and pose a risk to occupants. Samples of air inside buildings and below the ground can be collected and analyzed to determine if risks to human health and the environment are present.

What happens when MDEQ visits a site to do sampling and testing?

After site access is secured from the property owner, the MDEQ may complete the following, including but not limited to:

- Set a sampling schedule with property owners
- Determine the locations of soil borings, monitoring wells, and vapor points/pins
- Schedule drillers and other contractors
- Review sampling and health and safety plans
- Notify affected stakeholders and local authorities of the project
- Complete a subsurface contaminant survey and review the results
- Complete soil borings, monitoring well installation, and vapor point installation
- Collect soil samples, groundwater samples, and vapor samples
- Receive and evaluate soil, groundwater, and vapor sample results
- Collect and evaluate indoor air samples at property
- If needed, expand the scope of the project/investigation based on those results
- If needed, request water supply sampling be conducted by the local health department

See the ***What is Vapor Intrusion*** brochure online at www.oakgov.com/health for detailed steps.

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How long will the testing take place in Franklin?

Testing recently began at Franklin Village Plaza. Testing will continue until the areas where risks from the chemicals are identified and measures are taken to assure protection of the public's health and safety. MDEQ will collect groundwater and subsurface vapor samples approximately every 3 months for at least 1 year.

Is it possible for me to be required to leave my home or business due to vapors?

A temporary and voluntarily evacuation of a home or business may be recommended by Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) due to an associated risk to human and environmental health.

OCHD may determine a mandatory evacuation is needed if an imminent danger exists.

What are potential mitigation and remediation steps if vapor intrusion is detected?

See the ***What is Vapor Intrusion*** brochure online at www.oakgov.com/health for detailed steps. Response activities to manage and reduce risks may be done to keep potentially harmful vapors out of indoor air. Other activities to remove or treat contaminated soil, soil gas, and groundwater may also be done.

Who funds this initiative?

The sampling, mitigation, and remediation efforts are funded by MDEQ using public funds appropriated by the legislature. Remediation work done in homes or businesses will be covered by this funding. If any responsible parties are found, they will be asked to reimburse the State.

Timeline

- **2015 – Present:** MDEQ conducts groundwater, soil, and air quality testing upon written access permissions from Franklin Village Plaza owners.
- **Friday, March 2, 2018:** OCHD encouraged businesses in the Franklin Village Plaza to temporarily and voluntarily close because of potential health risks due to a vapor intrusion discovered by MDEQ.
- **Monday March 5, 2018:** Franklin Village Plaza businesses received a mandatory evacuation notice from OCHD following MDEQ's discovery of an underground storage tank with unknown chemicals in the crawl space of the building. MDEQ was not able to identify the chemical or potential for harm.
- **Tuesday, March 6:** Indoor air samples were taken at neighboring businesses and three nearby residences.
- **Wednesday March 7:** Chemicals from the underground storage tank sampled and sent to laboratory.

Partners

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- Oakland County Health Division (OCHD)
- Village of Franklin

For questions, contact Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:

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