Vapor Intrusion at a Former Dry Cleaner in Southeast Wisconsin

When bad things happen to good people....

Working with State and Local Health Departments

- 2 story, stand-alone building
- 1st level now vacant formerly occupied by dry cleaner
- 2 apartments occupy second level





Concrete block
Slab on grade
Garage under north apartment

Timeline of Actions



Shallow soil – PCE concentrations

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Timeline of Actions



First Level – former drycleaner space – now vacant



East wall – floor stained – GP3 in bottom left corner (1,900 ug/kg PCE)



South end – front of store

Standing on the approximate location of GP-5 (18,000 ug/kg PCE)

Looking south towards store front area

Looking north into boiler room



Sewer Repair resulted in floor opening – direct pathway for vapor migration

West wall, beneath the south apartment

01 11 2010

Close-up of hole

Indoor air sample locations - apartments



Outdoor (Background) Sample



Air Sample Results – Tetrachlorethylene (ppbv) DNR Target Level = .603 ppbv Health Department Action Level = 6.03 ppbv

Date	South Apartment	North Apartment	Outside
12/09/09	52	264	ND
1/11/10	11.5	26.1	ND
Date	Main Level – Fo	ormer DC space	
12/09/09	40		
01/11/10	1.5		

January 11 to 25th, 2010

Building owner personally undertakes intervention measures

Installed vent fan to vent the sub-slab airspace on the first floor

Sealed concrete block spaces in back part of first level



Boiler Room floor and wall sealing

01.26.2010

Removed carpet – Cleaned and sealed floor cracks on first level

Sealed hole around sewer pipe on first level

01.26.2010

Sealed utility penetrations leading to the second floor apartments



Air Sample Results – Tetrachlorethylene (ppbv) DNR Target Level = .603 ppbv Health Department Action Level = 6.03 ppbv

Date	South Apartment	North Apartment		Outside
12/09/09	52	264		ND
1/11/10	11.5	26.1		ND
1/26/10	6	22.9		ND
Date	Main Level – Former DC space			
12/09/09	40			
01/11/10	1.5			
01/26/10	4.3			

PCE concentrations in indoor air vs. Agency targets (Upstairs South Apartment)



PCE concentrations in indoor air vs. Agency targets (Upstairs North Apartment)



PCE concentrations in indoor air vs. Agency targets (First Floor Storefront)





2011 Update

- Owner has received DERF reimbursement for investigation and mitigation actions taken through February 2010
- Building remains unoccupied since February 2010
- Mitigation fan has been running since installation
- Owner has cleaned, sealed and painted floor in first level
- Added a small fan to vent sub-floor space below boiler room
- Cleaned interior walls of apartments (carpet cleaned or replaced)

Special Thanks to:

- Henry Nehls Lowe for responsive, calm, thoughtful approach
- Terry Evanson for providing a sounding board for technical and policy issues
- South Milwaukee Health Department for willingness to learn, cooperative actions and taking the lead on health department response