



Facts About...

OFF-SITE INVESTIGATION CHEMICAL METALS INDUSTRIES, INC.

The Maryland Department of the Environment's ("MDE") Land Restoration Program ("LRP"), through its Controlled Hazardous Substance ("CHS") Enforcement Division, is overseeing the environmental assessment and cleanup activities related to the release of chlorinated solvents from the Chemical Metals Industries, Inc. in the Westport section of Baltimore City. The following provides answers to a number of questions frequently asked about this project:

What's the problem at the area near the CMI site?

The Chemical Metals Industries, Inc. Site ("the Site") consists of two parcels located at 2001 and 2103 Annapolis Road, in the Westport section of Baltimore City. The two parcels are separated from one another by twenty row houses (2009 through 2047 Annapolis Road) and a railroad right of way. Chlorinated solvents used and/or stored by Chemical Metals Industries at the two parcels between 1973 and 1980 have contaminated the underlying groundwater and are migrating, with groundwater flow, toward Gwynn's Falls (See Figure 1). As it migrates, the contamination passes beneath some of the twenty row houses separating the two Site parcels. A portion of the contamination off-gasses from the groundwater and migrates into the overlying soil gas. Once in the soil gas, and under the proper circumstances, the contaminant vapors have the ability to enter the air inside the overlying houses via a process known as vapor intrusion. Soil-gas and indoor-air testing conducted for MDE between June 2007 and August 2008 in six of the twenty row houses indicates vapor intrusion has occurred in each of the tested houses. Outdoor air testing conducted as part of these activities did not identify any contaminant levels of concern. MDE is currently installing mechanical systems in the affected homes to prevent vapor intrusion.

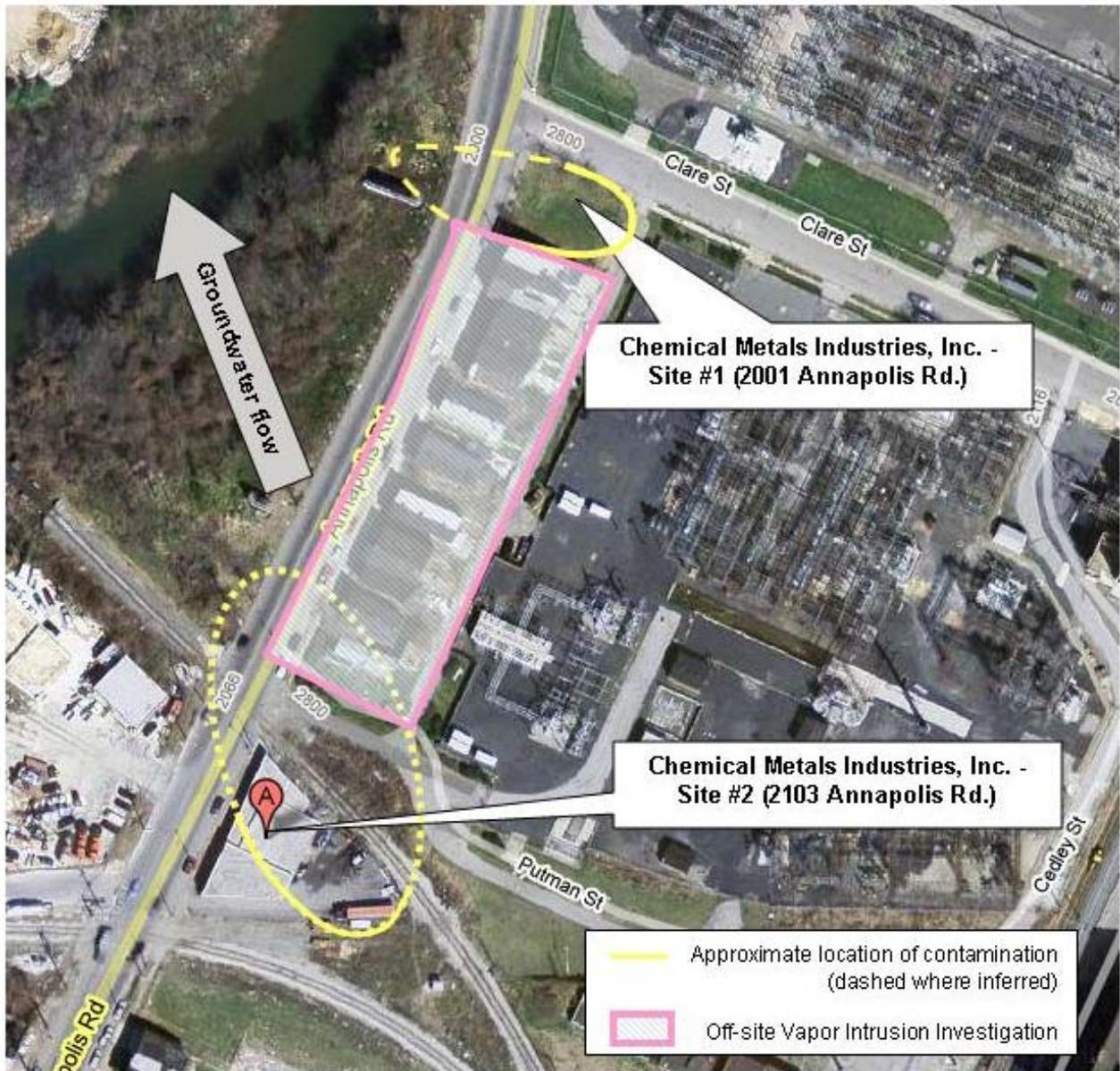
What are the potential health impacts of PCE and TCE exposure?

For additional information on the potential health impacts of PCE and TCE, the CHS Enforcement Division has posted fact sheets about the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about PCE and TCE at http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/ERRP_Brownfields/ERRP_Superfund/index.asp. These fact sheets, prepared by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provide a summary about PCE and TCE and their health effects. The same fact sheets can also be obtained directly from

ATSDR at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html> and <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.html>. Any personal health-related questions should be consulted with a personal physician.



Figure 1 - Off-site Soil Gas Investigation



Contact

For additional information, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (800) 633-6101, extension 3437.

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