

Summary: Willow Street Crawlspace and Subslab Air Study

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has completed the first round of the Willow Street Crawlspace and Subslab Air Study.

DENR requested permission from property owners to access eight properties for testing. Six of the eight property owners granted this permission.

DENR successfully tested all six of those properties. Crawlspace air samples were collected at four of those six properties and subslab air samples were collected at two of those six properties since no crawlspace was present. The distinction between crawlspace and subslab air samples is based solely on the type of construction of the structure. Structures without a crawlspace are tested via subslab testing, which consists of sampling through a small port drilled through concrete slab floors.

Contaminants in subsurface air can travel through spaces in soil beneath structures. If contaminant concentrations are high enough, the contaminants can enter the structure and adversely affect the health of people living and/or working there.

DENR's continued investigation is proceeding in a precise, stepwise fashion to assess whether groundwater contamination is causing indoor air contamination. At this point, based on our first round of testing, it does not appear that groundwater contamination in the vicinity of Willow Street is causing indoor air contamination.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT RESIDENTS ARE DRINKING MUNICIPAL WATER, NOT THE GROUNDWATER REFERENCED IN THIS PROGRESS REPORT.

At all four of the properties where we collected crawlspace air samples, the potential adverse health risk calculated for the contaminant concentrations which were detected in the crawlspace **did not exceed** the specified United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and DENR health risk limits for cancer and non-cancer effects.

At three of the four properties where we collected crawlspace air samples, the detections of the four contaminants can be explained by corresponding detections in the background air sample. Therefore, at those three properties, the crawlspace air study is complete and no additional crawlspace air samples will be collected at this time.

At one of the four properties where we collected crawlspace air samples, we must collect a precautionary confirmation crawlspace air sample to comply with our Guidelines for the Evaluation of Structural Vapor Intrusion Potential. Specifically, the detection of Chloroform at that property cannot be explained by a corresponding detection in the background air sample. The Chloroform detection **did not exceed** the specified USEPA and DENR health risk limits for cancer and non-cancer effects. The detections of the other four contaminants at that property can be explained by corresponding detections in the background air sample. Sampling will occur over two consecutive workdays during February, 2013.

At both of the two properties where we collected subslab air samples, the concentrations of the contaminants detected **are within** USEPA and DENR acceptable screening limits.

At both of the two properties where we collected subslab air samples, we must collect a precautionary confirmation subslab air sample to comply with our Guidelines for the Evaluation of Structural Vapor Intrusion Potential. Specifically, the detection of one contaminant per property is below, but near, the screening concentration on the residential table for subslab testing. Sampling will occur on one workday during February, 2013.