Summary: Willow Street Crawlspace and Subslab Air Study

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

DENR requested permission from property owners to access three properties for testing. All three property owners granted this permission.

DENR successfully tested all three of those properties. Crawlspace air samples were collected at one of those three properties and subslab air samples were collected at two of those three 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 investigation proceeded in a precise, stepwise fashion to assess whether groundwater contamination is causing indoor air contamination. Based on our second and final round of testing, groundwater contamination in the vicinity of Willow Street is not causing indoor air contamination.

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

At the one property where we collected precautionary confirmation 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. The detections of five of the six contaminants can be explained by corresponding detections in the background air sample. The detection of the sixth contaminant was barely above the laboratory detection limit and considerably below the DENR standard. The detection of Chloroform at that property in January could not be explained by a corresponding detection in the background air sample, and made the February samples necessary. Chloroform was detected in both the precautionary confirmation crawlspace air sample and the background air sample in February at the same low concentration barely above the laboratory detection limit. Therefore, at that one property, the crawlspace air study is complete and no additional crawlspace air samples will be collected at this time.

At both of the two properties where we collected precautionary confirmation subslab air samples, the concentrations of the contaminants detected **are within** USEPA and DENR acceptable screening limits. The February lab results are similar to the January lab results. Therefore, at both of those two properties, the subslab air study is complete and no additional subslab air samples will be collected at this time.