



Former Macon Naval Ordnance Plant, Unit 1 Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

A Letter Health Consultation (LHC) provides advice on specific public health issues related to human exposure to toxic chemicals found in the environment to an agency directly involved in remediation activities at a regulated site.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) conducted a LHC to evaluate indoor air and sub-slab soil gas sampling results at Unit 1 of the former Macon Naval Ordnance Plant (MNOP). Unit 1, located at 810 Allied Industrial Blvd. in Macon, Georgia, is currently operated by Freudenberg Texbond LP. DPH evaluated potential health effects for employees breathing indoor air contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The potential contaminants of concern at Unit 1 are trichloroethene (TCE) and vinyl chloride (VC).

The former MNOP's National Priorities Listing prompted DPH, under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to develop this LHC.

DPH evaluated past exposure to TCE and VC from breathing indoor air in Unit 1. Data from 2015, 2020, and 2023 show that workers in the Unit 1 breakroom were exposed to low levels of these chemicals. Based on our assessment of available data, DPH concluded the following:

1. VC exposure did not pose significant noncancer or cancer health risks.
2. TCE exposure in 2020 and 2023 did not pose health risks, but 2015 levels in the Unit 1 breakroom suggested a potential increase in cancer risk for employees who worked there for 20 or more years.
3. In 2015, TCE levels in the Unit 1 breakroom were high enough to raise concern. Pregnant employees using the breakroom may have had an increased risk of fetal heart development problems.
4. Remediation actions since 2015 effectively reduced TCE levels, as reflected in 2020 and 2023 sampling results. However, sub-slab soil gas data indicate TCE contamination remains and could continue to drive vapor intrusion until groundwater contamination is mitigated.

To protect the current and future health of individuals, DPH made the following recommendations:

1. Inform employees about past elevated TCE and VC exposures in Unit 1, potential health risks with TCE and VC inhalation, and plans to mitigate TCE and VC exposure.
2. Conduct seasonal indoor air sampling, particularly in winter, with concurrent outdoor and sub-slab sampling to better capture variability.
3. Reduce vapor intrusion risks by sealing slab cracks and improving indoor filtration and ventilation.
4. Consider evaluation of the buildings in Unit 2 for TCE and chlorinated solvents in indoor air, including seasonal sampling.

The letter health consultation is available to the public at the Bloomfield Public Library and upon request by contacting the Chemical Hazards Program at (404) 657-6534.

For more information about public health consultations and other activities, please contact:

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