



Cachet Cleaners January 2, 2002

Introduction

At the request of a citizen, the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) examined the potential for human exposure to contaminants at Peachtree Hill Shopping Center in Duluth, Georgia. In particular, the citizen and other community members were concerned about possible adverse health effects from breathing chemicals released from remediation activities at Cachet Classic Cleaners (Cachet), a former dry cleaning facility that operated at the shopping center from 1987 to 1995.

Site Description and History

In 1995, soil contaminated with PCE was discovered under a dry cleaning machine at Cachet. In November 1995, the dry cleaning machine was removed from the site and Cachet was subsequently converted to a drop-off facility and moved to another location within the shopping center.

Soil remediation began in 1996 and continued until 1998. Groundwater samples collected in 1996 revealed that contamination had spread to an adjacent parcel of land located west the Peachtree Hill Shopping Center. The property owner then proceeded with corrective action in the area by removing contaminated groundwater, stripping the PCE from it, and returning the cleaned water to the aquifer.

In July 1999, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD), Air Protection Branch, investigated concerns about potential air exposures to PCE from remediation activities. GEPD calculated the maximum amount of PCE that might have been released and found that emissions did not violate the Georgia Air Toxics Guidelines or Air Quality Regulations.

In February 2000, Ecology and Environment Incorporated (EEI), under a GEPD contract, performed a site assessment of the Peachtree Hill Shopping Center, including the former Cachet Classic Cleaners.

Environmental Sampling

GDPH reviewed EEI's air, surface water, and tap water data from Peachtree Hill Shopping Center and the

vicinity. No ambient or indoor air sampling data were found for the site prior to the EEI investigation; therefore, GDPH cannot evaluate any health impacts past exposure might have had. We evaluated sampling data from air and water collected during the EEI site assessment to determine if any contamination remaining after the PCE spill and subsequent remediation posed a public health hazard. However, because PCE and some of its breakdown products are widely used in industry, we cannot identify whether any PCE-related contaminants can be traced directly to the contamination at the dry cleaning facility. Individuals potentially exposed at the site include customers and full time workers. In evaluating the site, we assumed workers in the shopping center were exposed to the highest chemical levels found at the site because they were present for longer durations of time.

Results

Air sampling revealed methylene chloride exposure exceeded Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) in the service corridor strip at the shopping center and PCE exposure exceeded MRLs in the former costume shop located two doors down from Cachet. Exposure was evaluated further and GDPH concluded that these exposure levels are not expected to cause adverse health effects in people working at or visiting these locations. No conclusions about past exposure could be reached because data does not exist for past evaluation.

Conclusions

GDPH concludes this site currently poses **no apparent public health hazard**. No conclusions can be made about past exposure conditions at the shopping center because no data are available for evaluation.

Recommendations

- Peachtree Hill Shopping Center's owner should submit any sampling data that might have been gathered during remedial actions to GEPD and to ATSDR as requested.
- If any data are available, ATSDR should evaluate the data.