



Peach Orchard Road April 27, 2006

Introduction

The Peach Orchard Road PCE Groundwater Plume site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and finalized in September 2005. Since 1986, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been required by law to conduct a public health assessment at each of the sites on the NPL. The aim of these evaluations is to find out if people have been exposed to hazardous substances and, if so, whether that exposure is harmful and should be stopped or reduced.

ATSDR requested that the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) provide a health consultation to explore the potential human exposure to site-related contaminants in groundwater. GDPH has reviewed groundwater, and surface water monitoring data related to the site. The information in this health consultation is specifically designed to provide the community with information about the public health implications from exposure to hazardous substances at this site, and to identify populations for which further health actions are needed.

Site Description and History

The Peach Orchard Road PCE groundwater plume site (POR site area) is a tetrachloroethylene (PCE) groundwater plume that has impacted one of Augusta-Richmond Utilities Department (AUD) Well fields in the southern part of Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. The POR site area is located on each side of Peach Orchard Road south of Rocky Creek; west of old Savannah Road (State Route 56); north of Windsor Spring Road, and east of Richmond Hill Road. In 1999, the POR site area included seven municipal wells and nine potential contaminant sources from both active and formerly active dry cleaning facilities located within residential and commercial areas.

Environmental Sampling

Ongoing investigations have been conducted at the POR site area since 1999 to characterize the extent of contamination released to environmental media (groundwater and surface water) from the site. Available

data include groundwater samples collected from shallow surficial monitoring wells in the area and deeper Cretaceous monitoring and municipal wells in the area. Surface water samples were collected from streams that traverse the Peach Orchard Well Field at 5 locations and from 6 locations along Rocky Creek.

Results

After reviewing groundwater sampling data, detections of PCE were shown at levels above and below Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL). However, exposure to PCE above health guidelines has not occurred for Augusta residents consuming municipal water from the Peach Orchard Road Well Field. The maximum concentration of PCE measured at each municipal was used as a conservative measure for estimating the highest exposure doses one could have received. Children and adults exposed to the maximum concentration of PCE from contaminated wells are likely not at any increased risk for non-cancer health effects. The actual concentrations of PCE that residents were exposed to are likely to be many times less than the maximum concentrations found because drinking water containing these concentrations was not consumed directly, but in a blend of potable water that contained very small percentages of water from the contaminated wells.

Conclusions

Based on the data evaluated, GDPH considers this site to pose ***no apparent past or current public health hazard***.

Recommendations

- EPA should continue monitoring the surficial and Cretaceous aquifer plumes in an effort to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of PCE contamination, as well as continue their efforts to determine the extent of contamination in subsurface soils, surface water, and sediments in the POR site area.
- Once EPA completes the remedial investigation/feasibility study in the POR site area, appropriate remediation measures should be undertaken along with continual monitoring of the effectiveness of such remediation actions.