

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Euclid Road Groundwater Site, Reardan, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

February 2006

## Update on EPA activities in the Euclid Road area

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been testing well water in the area around Euclid Road in Reardan to find out if those wells have been affected by a chemical called trichloroethylene or TCE. EPA found TCE in a few of the wells and has taken action to keep this chemical out of drinking water. This fact sheet provides a summary of recent developments.

Routine testing of a well near the former Fairchild Nike Battery 87, in October 2004, showed high levels of TCE in the water. Knowing that homes in the area rely on wells for drinking water, EPA tested other drinking water and monitoring wells.

When unacceptable levels of TCE were found in the drinking water of three homes, EPA installed water-treatment systems to remove the chemical from the water. The search for the source of the TCE continues, as does testing of drinking water wells and monitoring wells. Please see page 2 for a more detailed summary of activities.

### What is TCE and how might it affect me?

TCE is a solvent commonly used to remove grease from machinery and motor vehicle engine parts. It also is an ingredient in many products, such as paint removers and adhesives. It is a colorless liquid with a sweet smell and taste. Drinking water with small amounts of TCE for long periods may cause liver and kidney damage, impaired immune system function, and impaired fetal development in pregnant women. The extent of some of these effects is not yet clear. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that TCE is a probable human carcinogen.

### How much TCE was found and what is EPA doing about it?

Testing showed that three homes in the Euclid Road area had TCE levels well above EPA's drinking

water standard of 5 parts per billion of water. EPA installed water filtration systems at the properties where elevated levels of TCE were found. The filtered water is safe for all purposes including drinking. If you have questions about TCE and your health, please contact your doctor or Mike LaScuola, Spokane Regional Health District. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website has background information on this chemical. (See page 3 for both.)

### Where did the TCE come from?

Soil and well water contaminated with TCE often are found around industrial and military sites. It is found in rural areas occasionally because it was commonly used for cleaning machinery. The TCE found in the Euclid Road area could be the result of a spill some time in the past, but we do not know where, when, or how much of the chemical was spilled or dumped. Information obtained from monitoring wells installed in November 2005 suggest that the source area is northwest of the three affected water-supply wells.

### What will happen next?

#### *Finding the responsible parties*

EPA is searching for the party responsible for the TCE contamination. Normally, the responsible party would pay for testing and cleanup of contamination, including the cost of providing clean drinking water.

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**What will happen next?** *continued****Testing of drinking water and monitoring wells***

EPA will test monitoring wells every three months through August 2006. All of the drinking water wells affected by TCE will be tested every month through August. Another nearby well, which has not been affected by TCE, also will be tested regularly to make sure that TCE has not reached it. Testing will continue after August, and EPA is working with other agencies to determine which one is best suited to take over this activity after August. Monitoring should continue until the TCE is no longer found in the wells.

***Maintenance of water-treatment systems***

Water-treatment systems were installed by EPA in three homes whose drinking water wells contained elevated levels of TCE. EPA will continue to check

those systems and replace their filters, if necessary, through August 2006. Home owners may need to start paying for the costs of operating their treatment systems in September 2006, unless EPA is able to find the party responsible for the contamination to take over the costs.

***Reporting to residents***

Two reports on sampling results are being sent in February 2006 to each homeowner whose well was sampled. These reports also will be available on request to anyone wanting a copy. The reports provide a summary of 2005 test results from drinking water and monitoring wells in the Euclid Road area. The results of 2006 tests will be reported directly to residents and also will be available on the EPA website (*see page 3*). Another update will be sent out in June 2006.

## More About EPA Water Testing and Treatment Activities — 2004 to 2006

**2004**

EPA periodically tests water around formerly used military sites to make sure there is no contamination. In addition to testing two monitoring wells around the former Fairchild Nike '87 site in October 2004, EPA also tested a third well over a mile away from the old Nike site. The third well, called the "Euclid" well, is used for drinking water. This well was supposed to provide EPA with an idea of what "normal" water would look like so we could compare it to the wells near the old military site.

**2005**

Test results from the Euclid well were received in January 2005. The tests showed that the water contained TCE. The owner of the well was told immediately that there was a possible problem with the well.

EPA retested the Euclid well to see if there had been a mistake in the original test. Other wells in

the area also were tested. The second set of tests confirmed that the Euclid well had more TCE than allowed by federal drinking water standards. The other two wells tested had either very low or no TCE, which seemed to indicate that the problem was not widespread. The well owners were notified of the results.

EPA started a thorough investigation in the area. This investigation, called a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) identified wells that should be tested to determine if the TCE in the groundwater had reached other wells.

Eleven wells in the Euclid Road area were tested in June. TCE was found in four of them. Of those four wells, three had levels within acceptable drinking water limits. One drinking water well had high levels of TCE.

## More About EPA Water Testing and Treatment *continued*

EPA received the results of the June tests on August 22. That same day, EPA contacted the homeowner and told Spokane County Department of Health and the Washington Department of Ecology. The next day, EPA's Emergency Response program took over the site because of the potential threat to people's health.

Water-treatment systems were installed in October at the three homes with high TCE levels. Two of these systems are operating and providing safe drinking water to those homes. No one is living in the third house.

EPA installed test wells in November to better define the extent of the TCE plume and direction of groundwater flow. Based upon information from

these monitoring wells, the TCE source appears to be northwest of the affected water supply wells.

### 2006

Monthly testing of the installed water-treatment systems and any necessary maintenance will be provided by EPA through August 2006. EPA also will test the monitoring wells quarterly through August. The agency best suited will take the lead for these actions after August. If test results show that the TCE is moving, more frequent testing may be necessary.

Final reports on 2005 test results will be available in February. These reports serve as a summary of testing and will not contain new information.

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## Contact us for more information

Please contact **Renée Dagseth** if you have questions about this site or if you have information about the possible source of the TCE.

**Renée Dagseth**, Community Involvement Coordinator  
800-424-4372 or 206-553-1889  
[dagseth.renee@epa.gov](mailto:dagseth.renee@epa.gov)

If you have questions about whether your well has been tested or needs to be tested, contact:

**Calvin Terada**, On-Scene Coordinator  
206-553-4141, [terada.calvin@epa.gov](mailto:terada.calvin@epa.gov)

For questions about TCE and your health, please contact:

**Mike LaScuola**, Spokane Regional Health District,  
509-324-1574, [mlascuola@spokanecounty.org](mailto:mlascuola@spokanecounty.org)

For information on TCE, visit:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.html>

Please visit EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

Click on Index A-Z, then on E, and on Euclid Road Groundwater Site.

## Future Information

To receive future fact sheets via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [dagseth.renee@epa.gov](mailto:dagseth.renee@epa.gov) .



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Renée Dagseth. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Reardan, Washington  
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