

# EPA Starts Investigation Near Former Battery Manufacturer

## Exide Battery Site Assessment

Frankfort, Indiana

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### For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the investigation, contact one of these EPA team members:

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You may call EPA toll-free at  
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#### Website:

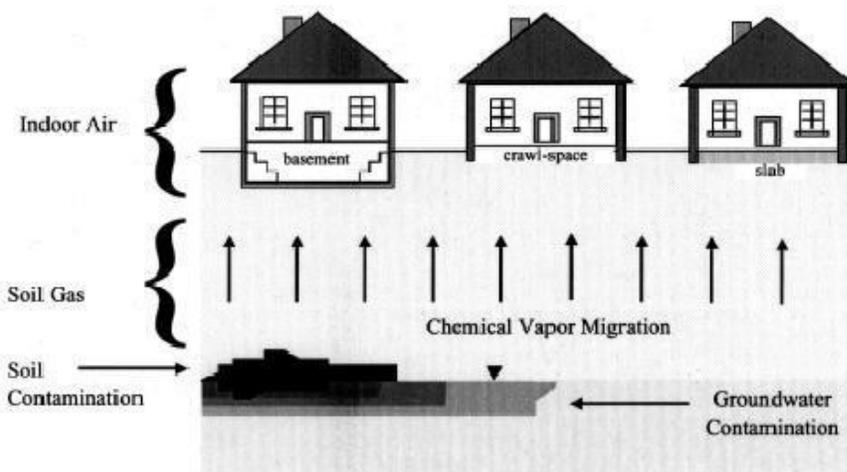
[www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/exidebattery/](http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/exidebattery/)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is investigating residential areas near the former Exide Battery plant. Exide is at 555 N. Hoke Ave. on a 13-acre parcel on the east side of Frankfort, Ind.

EPA is sampling nearby residential properties for lead-contaminated soil, and for an environmental problem called “vapor intrusion.” Vapor intrusion occurs when chemicals, such as solvents, in underground water or soil give off dangerous gases that can seep into buildings through foundation cracks and holes, causing unsafe indoor air pollution. EPA tests for vapor intrusion by collecting air samples in your home and beneath your foundation or slab. EPA may soon ask you for permission to test your home by signing a document called an access agreement. The testing is free to homeowners.

Exide acquired the facility in 1987 from General Battery Co. and made batteries there until 1998. Making batteries produces lead vapors and airborne lead dust. Since February 1999, Exide used the facility to store equipment from its other locations. In April 2014, two underground storage tanks were removed and solvents were found in soil and underground water supplies. Both lead and these solvents, such as trichloroethene, or TCE, may threaten the health of nearby residents.

The Superfund law<sup>1</sup> gives EPA the authority to do the investigation.



*This diagram illustrates how hazardous vapors trapped in soil and underground water supplies, or groundwater, can move into homes and buildings and cause indoor air pollution. This process is called vapor intrusion. EPA will be checking for vapor intrusion during its investigation near the Exide Battery facility in Frankfort.*

<sup>1</sup>EPA conducts time-critical cleanups in accordance with Section 104(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §9604(a)(1); and 40 C.F.R. §300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).