

# EPA Plans Urgent Cleanup At Former Plating Shop

## Kiser Plating Time-Critical Cleanup Site

Muncie, Indiana

August 2013

### You're invited

EPA will hold a public meeting on the Kiser cleanup Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Maring-Hunt Library, 2005 S. High St., Muncie.

### For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

*For technical questions:*

Shelly Lam

On-Scene Coordinator  
Superfund Division  
2525 N. Shadeland Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-417-0980  
lam.shelly@epa.gov

*For general questions:*

Teresa Jones

Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Superfund Division  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-0725  
jones.teresa@epa.gov

You may call EPA toll-free at  
800-621-8431,  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

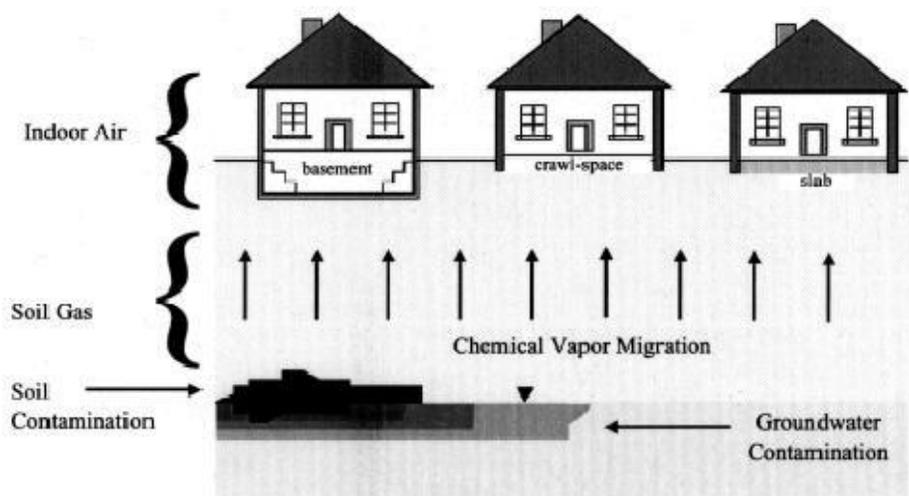
Website:

[www.epaosc.org/kiserplating](http://www.epaosc.org/kiserplating)

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started an urgent cleanup at a former metals plating shop that released dangerous chemicals into the soil and underground water supplies. EPA expects the cleanup at the former Kiser Plating Shop to cost about \$700,000. The owner of the site is bankrupt so the EPA will pay for the cleanup. The Agency calls the cleanup a “time-critical removal action” because the pollution poses an imminent threat to the safety and health of people. EPA is conducting the cleanup using its authority under the Superfund law.<sup>1</sup>

Besides removing contaminated soil on the now-vacant property, EPA will also be checking the neighborhood for an environmental problem called “vapor intrusion.” Vapor intrusion occurs when chemicals in the underground water or soil give off dangerous gases that can seep into buildings through foundation cracks and holes, causing unsafe indoor air pollution. Underground water supplies are called “ground water” in environmental terms.

Soil gas, sub-slab and indoor air tests are performed to find vapor intrusion problems. In soil gas and sub-slab testing, probes are inserted into the ground or under building foundations to sniff out hazardous vapors trapped between dirt particles. Air sampling measures the concentrations of hazardous gases in the indoor air.



*This diagram illustrates how hazardous vapors trapped in soil and underground water supplies (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 cleanup at the former Kiser Plating site.*

<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).

If excessive indoor air pollution levels are detected inside homes or buildings, EPA can install systems that remove the gases or pressurize crawl spaces to keep vapors from seeping in.

Kiser Plating released dangerous chemicals, including metals and volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, into the soil. VOCs evaporate easily and are prone to causing vapor intrusion problems. Among the hazardous pollutants released by the former plating company were cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and VOCs called tetrachloroethene, or PCE, trichloroethene, or TCE, and other products. All were found at levels that exceed health standards.

Hazardous substances are in soil and soil vapor. If EPA does not do the cleanup, people could be exposed to pollution from breathing contaminated air through the vapor intrusion process. There is also a concern that residents near the site could be exposed to contamination.

### Site history

Kiser Plating operated as a plating shop at 401 E. Howard St. in Muncie from 1911 until 1999. Tri-Unity LLC purchased the property from Kiser in 1999 and filed for bankruptcy in 2002. Prior to construction of the plating facility, the property was a power company, bagging company and warehouse. The site is currently vacant.

The property is in a mixed commercial, residential and industrial area on the southeast side of downtown Muncie. Around 10,000 people live within one mile of the site. Residential properties are located north and west, a warehouse and former industrial property are to the east across the alley and a commercial building is to the south. The city of Muncie demolished one building and evaluated the condition of the site in 2010 and



*Residential properties west of Kiser Plating.*



*EPA contractors use a piece of equipment called a "Geoprobe" to make borings at the Kiser Plating site.*

2011. EPA conducted a site assessment in November 2012 at the request of the city of Muncie. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management asked for EPA help to finish the cleanup.

Kiser Plating is in a low-income neighborhood and qualifies as an Environmental Justice project. EPA's EJ-designated projects ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people affected by pollution and environmental laws.

### Cleanup plan

Actual cleanup work and the vapor intrusion investigation will take 60 days. EPA plans the following cleanup steps:

- Develop and implement a site health, safety and security plan for the benefit of workers and nearby residents.
- Remove contaminated soil to a depth of 2 feet.
- Arrange for off-site disposal of approximately 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil at a licensed facility.
- Backfill excavated areas with clean fill.
- Conduct vapor intrusion assessments at up to 50 nearby properties within ¼-mile of the site.
- If and when excessive indoor pollution levels are discovered, take steps to alleviate the situation and protect the health of residents.

EPA will continue to assess site conditions and may propose future cleanups after the latest work is complete.