

This newsletter has been developed to share updates about the on-going environmental work in the Bishop Street Community.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Update

The ministry continues to oversee the environmental work to address trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in groundwater, as well as the indoor mitigation systems and a number of monitoring programs.

This is to ensure the community remains protected.

The ministry works in consultation with the Region of Waterloo Public Health and GE Canada.

More homes to receive indoor air mitigation systems

Beginning in December, the indoor air mitigation program will be expanded to include up to 112 additional homes.

As a result of the Region of Waterloo Public Health long-term goal to bring all homes down to 0.5 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) or less, the ministry and GE Canada are prioritizing homes for mitigation that were assessed in the past year to have concentrations of TCE in indoor air between 0.5 and 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The air mitigation systems are necessary to ensure concentrations of TCE stay below 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, a protective level where no further action is required.

AET Group Inc. (AET) will contact the additional 112 homeowners to provide additional information about the air mitigation systems, answer questions and coordinate an appointment for installation.

The ministry anticipates these mitigation systems will be installed before the end of 2021.

A number of different air mitigation systems with varying technologies have been installed in homes in the Bishop Street Community. These systems are effective at reducing TCE concentrations in homes to below Public Health recommended levels.

Evaluation of homes with multiple indoor air mitigation systems

AET, on behalf of the ministry and GE Canada, will be conducting a study in homes that have multiple types of air mitigation systems to determine whether the older systems can be turned off. This study will be part of the winter indoor air monitoring program.

In the coming months, AET will contact homeowners with multiple systems to provide additional information about the study.

On-going groundwater remediation and sampling programs

The ministry, through contract with AET, continues to operate and maintain the groundwater extraction system located at the former Northstar Aerospace Canada property at 679 Bishop Street. This system prevents further migration of contaminated groundwater from the site and treats it to acceptable levels.

Indoor air sampling

The annual winter air sampling program will begin in December 2019 and run through March 2020. Indoor air sampling allows us to determine when air mitigation is required to reduce levels of TCE in homes, as well as confirm TCE levels remain below acceptable levels.

AET, through the Community Information Centre (CIC), will coordinate the air sampling with home owners.

Groundwater sampling

Annual groundwater sampling continues to be conducted throughout the Bishop Street Community to confirm the effectiveness of the groundwater collection and treatment system and that contaminants are no longer migrating off the former Northstar site.

The 2019 sampling was completed in May and is being reviewed by ministry technical staff.

Surface water sampling

Surface water sampling of the Grand River continues to be conducted twice a year. The 2019 sampling program was completed in June and August. The ministry is reviewing the sampling data to ensure water quality continues to meet applicable provincial guidelines.

Region of Waterloo Public Health Update

Mitigation measures in homes continue to be very successful at reducing levels of TCE in indoor air, and have resulted in the large majority of homes having concentrations of TCE below $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The long-term goal of this program is to bring all homes down to $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less. Region of Waterloo Public Health will continue to review the results of the indoor air sampling program, which is carried out by AET and overseen by the ministry, to ensure these levels remain low.

Public Health continues to recommend that the ministry direct resources towards remedial options for indoor air TCE levels that will achieve the long-term goal of less than $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, using the following action levels:

Action Levels:

Less than $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → No further remedial actions are required.

Between $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → Continue annual indoor air monitoring. Public Health will work with the ministry to prioritize homes to receive remedial options.

Above $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ → Continue to be prioritized for indoor air assessments and remediation. Continue annual indoor air monitoring.

In addition, Public Health has recommended, when choosing between effective options for indoor air mitigation, that consideration should be given to minimizing stress and inconvenience for Bishop Street Community residents. For the Public Health Fact Sheet on TCE or additional information, visit the Public Health website on TCE www.regionofwaterloo.ca/TCE or contact Public Health directly at 519-575-4400.

GE Canada Update

Since 2007, GE Canada has been undertaking investigations and remedial efforts at 610 Bishop Street North and has shared in mitigation efforts in the Bishop Street Community. GE Canada provides support to both indoor air mitigation and monitoring work conducted by the CIC.

In 2009, GE Canada began treating soil and groundwater in the southwestern portion of the 610 Site with potassium permanganate. GE Canada's remedial efforts have been effective in destroying TCE in the soil and groundwater. In 2015, GE Canada discontinued the use of potassium permanganate in consultation with the ministry and began a monitoring program to assess the long-term effects of the remedial efforts. Based on the results of the ongoing monitoring program, next steps will be determined in consultation with the ministry.

CIC Update

AET continues to manage the CIC as a one-window access point for the community. All relevant information pertaining to the Bishop Street Community can still be obtained by contacting the CIC at AET's Cambridge office (see CIC contact information below).

Indoor Air Monitoring: Winter 2020

CIC staff wish to thank everyone for their continued cooperation during the winter air sampling programs. From calling us back promptly to shoveling your walkway, we appreciate your help.

Selling or Renovating your Home?

Please consider letting the CIC know if you are selling your home. We can provide assistance with questions which real estate agents or potential buyers may have about this project. If you are planning a basement renovation (i.e. installing a sump, changing the basement plumbing, adding a bathroom, deepening the basement, etc.) also give us a call to let us know.

CIC Reminders

- * HRVs should be on the WINTER setting
- * If your home is on a SVE system, call the CIC before you dig deeper than 2 feet in your front or back yard.
- * CIC staff continue to monitor mitigation equipment located in backyards throughout the year.

Contacting the CIC

Call the CIC through AET's Cambridge office at **519-653-0680** or email us at **Nhughston@aet98.com** to reach Janet, Laurel, Nicole or Ryan.