

NOTICE

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

EMERSON POWER TRANSMISSION ITHACA, NEW YORK

DATE: AUGUST 4, 2004

LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN
Cayuga Room
222 South Cayuga Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

TIMES: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

PURPOSE: Discuss results of recent vadose zone soil gas sampling
and plans for future investigation activities

SPONSORS: Emerson Electric Co.
New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of Health

Please see the attached fact sheet for more details concerning this matter. Emerson Electric Co and the State agencies will be available to discuss the ongoing work and answer questions

FACT SHEET

EMERSON POWER TRANSMISSION FACILITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

Introduction

The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe the results of the environmental investigation recently conducted by Emerson Electric Co. (Emerson) to evaluate the potential presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the vadose zone downgradient of the Emerson Power Transmission (EPT) Ithaca facility. Based on the preliminary data collected to date, Emerson has determined that further investigation is needed to evaluate the potential for VOCs to migrate through the soil as vapors into buildings and impact indoor air quality. Consequently, Emerson is developing action plans for further investigations, which will be submitted, to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address these issues. This fact sheet also describes the upcoming investigations that Emerson will be undertaking.

Background

VOCs were used by the former owner, Borg Warner, in manufacturing operations at the facility. Groundwater contamination at the site has resulted from past accidental releases of those compounds. Although the compounds are no longer used at the facility, the contamination associated with their use remains. Cleanup and monitoring of the groundwater contamination began in 1991 and continues today. The primary contaminant is trichloroethylene (TCE). The source of TCE affecting groundwater at the EPT facility has been investigated and the highest concentrations are present in the area of a fire water reservoir located on the west portion of the EPT site. Since 1991, Emerson has sought to eliminate the migration of the groundwater contamination by capturing it in extraction wells and treating the water to remove the VOCs.

Recent Investigation

In January 2004, Emerson submitted a work plan ("Vadose Zone Sampling Work Plan for Emerson Power Transmission Facility, Ithaca, New York," dated January 16, 2004) to the NYSDEC to perform vadose zone (soil gas) sampling in areas below the EPT facility. The work plan was approved in May 2004 and Emerson conducted the sampling in June 2004. The objective of the sampling was to evaluate the potential presence of site-related constituents in vadose zone (soil gas) downgradient from the EPT facility. The site-related constituents consist of VOCs, which were used by the former owner of the facility. The sampling was conducted on South Cayuga Street, South Hill Terrace, and South Geneva Street.

Soil Gas Monitoring Results

Results of the sampling reveal that VOC vapor is present in the vadose zone (soil gas) in the nine locations where samples were collected. Concentrations of VOCs are present in soil gas at sampling locations on South Hill Terrace and South Cayuga Street and to a lesser extent on South Geneva Street. The highest soil gas concentrations were found on South Cayuga Street. The primary VOC's are TCE and perchloroethylene. The soil gas data indicate a need for further investigation including groundwater and the potential for VOC vapor migration into buildings.

Next Steps

To determine whether the soil vapor is affecting indoor air quality, Emerson will be submitting a work plan to NYSDEC and NYSDOH to collect air samples from inside and beneath designated buildings. Following approval of that work plan, Emerson will be contacting certain residents and property owners for permission to perform indoor air testing and testing of the soil gas beneath their structures. The fact that you are asked for permission to test within your house does not mean that the air within your house is being affected.

Emerson also will be submitting to NYSDEC a workplan for conducting additional groundwater investigations, which will consist of installing and sampling shallow monitoring wells along South Hill Terrace, South Cayuga Street, and South Geneva Street. The results of the groundwater testing in combination with the indoor air testing and testing of soil gas beneath structures will be used to determine what additional investigation activities may be necessary.

Sample Collection and Reporting

Indoor air samples are collected by placing a stainless steel container, called a Summa canister, in the lowest level that can be occupied within a structure. Air is drawn into the canister for a certain duration of time, usually 24 hours. Substructure soil gas samples are collected by installing a small unobtrusive probe through the basement floor slab or crawl space of the structure and connecting the probe to a Summa canister. The canisters are then sent to an independent laboratory for testing. Results of the sampling are generally available five to six weeks after sample collection. Results of the sampling from each structure will be reported directly to that property owner. Outdoor sampling will also be performed to establish background air quality.

Since indoor air sampling results may vary from season to season, it may be necessary to sample some of the structures on more than one occasion.

Evaluation of the Results and Mitigation

Once the results have been received and evaluated, Emerson will work with the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and homeowners to install vapor mitigation systems as needed to control potential exposures associated with the indoor air. A typical mitigation system consists of a fan and piping system that intercepts soil gas from beneath the building and vents it to the atmosphere. Such systems are effective and reliable. They are most frequently used to eliminate the presence of naturally occurring radon gas from inside structures. The sampling described above, as well as the installation of any necessary mitigation systems that address vapor intrusion, will be performed at no cost to the homeowner.

Contacts

If you have questions, you may call toll free the contact listed below:

Emerson Electric Co.
Derek E. Chase
866-265-0634