GE Providing Air Study Results to Fort Edward Homeowners

GE, with oversight from the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health, is conducting an environmental study in Fort Edward. The study was announced to the Fort Edward community through the news media, by mail and at a public meeting on February 24, 2005.

The preliminary findings are as follows:

- No volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected above New York State indoor air quality guidelines in any of the homes for which preliminary data are available.
- VOCs have been detected in some underground soil vapor samples, in one ambient (or outdoor) air sample and in some samples of soil vapor beneath homes (sub-slab).
- At this time, GE is offering sub-slab depressurization systems to about 65 property owners in the study area. More homes may be offered systems as additional data are received from the laboratory.
- The deadline for requesting sampling in homes in the study area has been extended to Monday, April 18th. GE will continue to collect samples as appropriate.

Details of the Air Sampling Program

The purpose of this study is to determine if compounds that may have originated at the GE Fort Edward facility are detected in "soil vapor" — the air between and among particles of soil underground — in a six-block area south and west of the GE facility. We call this six-block neighborhood "the study area."

The focus is to determine if VOCs — specifically, trichloroethylene (TCE) or related compounds — are found in the soil vapor. GE once used TCE to clean machinery in its manufacturing facility and TCE has been identified in groundwater on and off the facility site. The company no longer uses TCE, and for 20 years has been collecting and remediating the contaminated groundwater.

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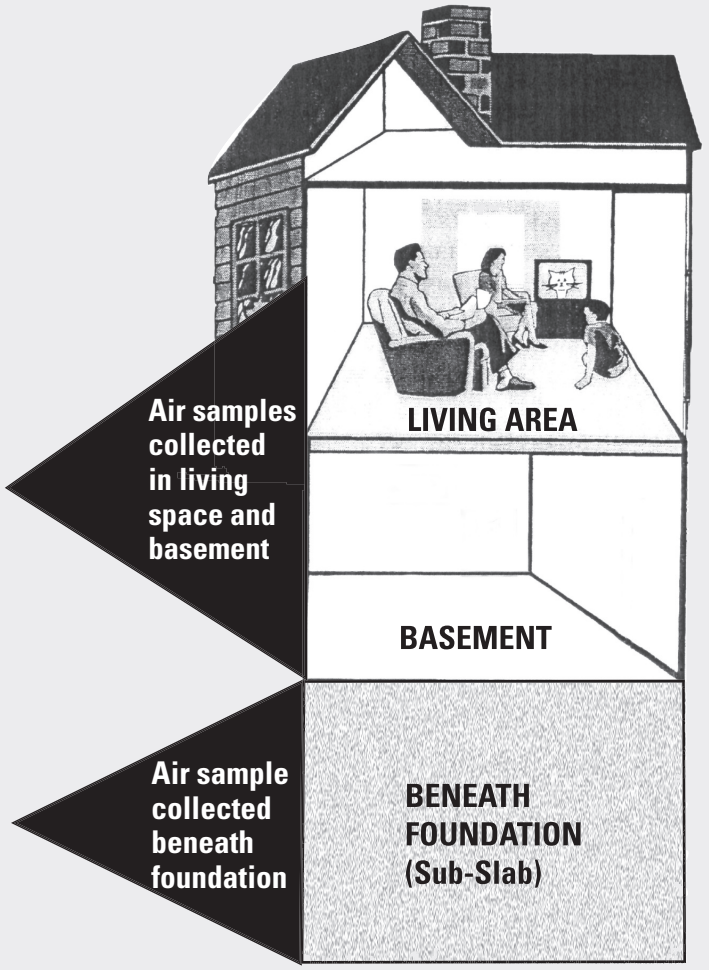
Home Sampling



In the homes and other structures where owners requested and gave permission for sampling, two kinds of samples were collected: Indoor air samples in the basement and living area of the house to determine if volatile organic compounds were present in the air, and a "sub-slab" sample beneath the foundation to determine if those compounds were present in the air beneath the structure. After they were collected, the samples were analyzed by STL (Severn Trent Laboratory) in Burlington, VT, an independent lab certified by New York State to perform the analysis.

The current project was requested by the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health and began in late February. GE has collected 17 soil vapor, XX ambient air and six groundwater samples in the study area. These have been analyzed by a New York State-certified laboratory. A final report on the findings will be issued to the public.

In addition, GE has collected indoor air samples in approximately 40 homes and other structures, at the request of the owners of those buildings. As promised, GE will provide the laboratory analyses of these samples to the property owners.

Preliminary Data

So far, GE has received preliminary soil vapor, ambient air and groundwater data collected in the study area and preliminary indoor air data from some of the homes that were sampled. GE is providing information on the soil vapor and ambient air data in this community fact sheet. We are also providing preliminary indoor air data to homeowners and will provide the final data in writing as well.

When first received from the laboratory, the results of the outdoor and indoor sampling are considered preliminary — they have not yet been independently verified. This important quality-control process takes longer, and once it is completed, each resident will receive the final, validated data in writing from GE.

GE has made a public commitment that where compounds related to the GE facility are detected in soil vapor in the study area, GE will install sub-slab depressurization systems in homes free of charge, with the homeowners' permission.

Underground Soil Vapor Sampling Data

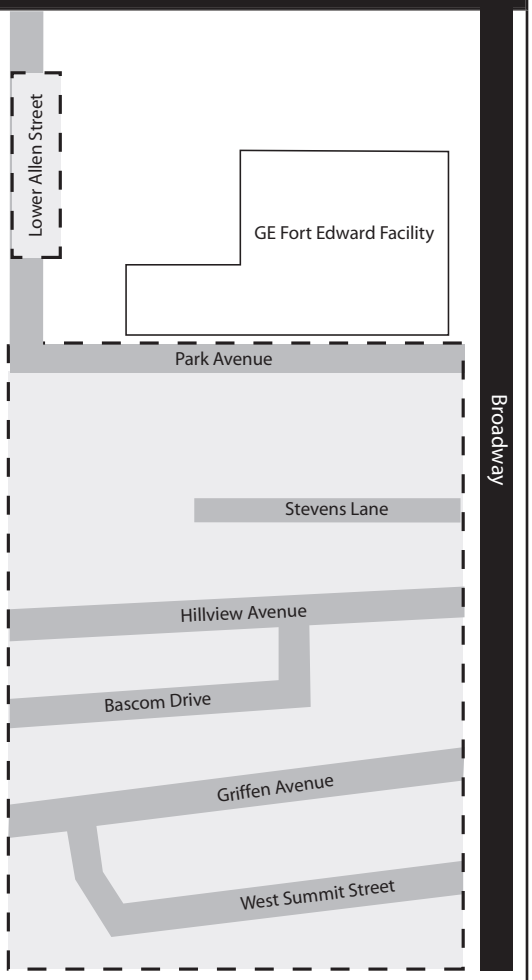
TCE has been detected in some underground soil vapor samples collected in the study area. As a result, GE will offer sub-slab depressurization systems to residents on the eastern side of Park Avenue, on all of Stevens Lane, Hillview Avenue and Bascom Drive, and on the northern side of Griffen Avenue. Residents in other parts of the study area will be offered systems if VOCs related to the GE facility are detected in soil vapor in those areas. The state Health Department supports this approach.

These systems are similar to what is commonly used to prevent radon gas from entering homes. These systems minimize the potential for soil vapors beneath a structure to enter it. GE also will maintain the systems and pay for the electricity needed to run them.

Indoor Air, Sub-Slab and Outdoor Air Sampling Data

The indoor sampling program for residents was entirely voluntary. No one was required to have his or her home sampled and sampling was not necessary to determine if a depressurization system will be offered. GE offered to collect samples of indoor air from those homeowners who requested the sampling and who gave the company written permission to collect the sample.

The Study Area



The study area includes Park Avenue, Stevens Lane, Hillview Avenue, Bascom Drive, Griffen Avenue and West Summit Street south of the GE facility and part of Lower Allen Street west of the GE facility. The study area was drawn to include the full historical extent of those areas in which volatile organic compounds had been identified in groundwater. The groundwater contamination has been significantly reduced through GE's ongoing environmental remediation program. This map is a representation and not drawn to scale.

The air sampling results for your home can be compared to the following guidelines and standards established by state and federal government agencies.

New York State Air Guideline If the concentration of TCE in the **living area** of your home exceeds this level, New York State recommends taking corrective action, such as installing a depressurization system.	**5 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3)**
New York State Sub-Slab Air Guideline If the level of TCE exceeds 250 micrograms per cubic meter in the air beneath your home (and TCE is detected in the living space of your home), New York State recommends the installation of a depressurization system to prevent the compounds from entering the home.	**250 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3)**
National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Workplace Air Guideline (10-hour Time Waited Average [TWA] exposure limit for workers)	**134,000 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3)**
U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Workplace Air Standard (8-hour Personal Exposure Limit [PEL} for workplaces)	**537,000 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3)**

Sources: New York State DEC, New York State DOH, OSHA and NIOSH

Approximately 40 owners of homes and other structures in the study area requested indoor air sampling between February 24, 2005, and March 18, 2005. Shortly after the deadline, GE and the state agencies received a request to extend the deadline. We will honor requests for indoor air sampling in homes where homeowners requested sampling and provided permission in writing to collect samples by April 18, 2005.

GE has now received some of the preliminary indoor air data and is providing it to homeowners. Residents who have not yet received their preliminary sampling results from GE should generally expect them a month to six weeks after the samples were collected.

None of the data received thus far shows TCE or any other VOCs at levels inside a home that exceed New York State indoor air guidelines. TCE has not been detected in the indoor air in most of the homes sampled. Where it has been detected, the level is, again, below New York State indoor air guidelines.

TCE has been detected in soil vapor samples collected beneath the foundations of some homes in the study area. Thus far, in all but two homes, these levels are below 250 micrograms per cubic meter of air (refer to table above.)

TCE also has been detected in one of numerous outdoor (or ambient) air samples collected in the study area.

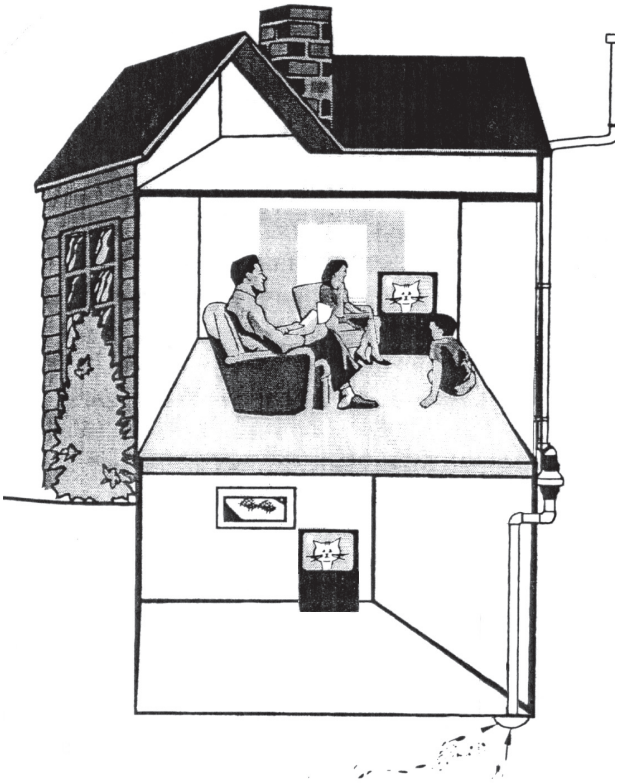
What These Levels Mean

In 2004, after reviewing toxicological research on TCE, the state Health Department established a guideline for TCE in indoor air of 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air (5 ug/m^3). New York State set this conservative guideline to protect the health of vulnerable members of the population, including children, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.

The state guideline is based on the assumption that people would be continuously exposed to TCE in the air all day, every day for their entire lives. This is rarely true for most people who are likely to spend only part of the day and part of their lives in one location or environment.

Exposure to TCE has been associated with some health effects in humans and animals in certain scientific studies — but at levels thousands of times higher than the New York State guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic meter.

For TCE in air beneath the foundation of a home, New York State recommends corrective action if the level of



A depressurization system works like a radon mitigation system to minimize the potential for soil vapors to enter a home. Typically, a pipe is installed through a concrete basement floor. The pipe is connected to a fan mounted on the exterior of the house. The fan draws air from under the foundation – the soil vapor – and vents it outdoors.

TCE exceeds 250 micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m^3) and TCE is detected within the living space of the home.

What is GE Doing?

Even though the levels of VOCs detected in Fort Edward generally fall below state guidelines, GE has offered — as a precaution — to install sub-slab depressurization systems in homes in the study area where TCE or other VOCs related to the GE Fort Edward facility were detected at any level.

Depressurization Systems Minimize Exposure

Depressurization systems minimize the potential for soil vapors beneath a structure to enter the structure. Typically, a pipe is installed in the basement floor and connected to an exterior mounted fan. The fan draws air from under the foundation and vents it to the outdoors.

Where TCE or other volatile organic compounds related to the GE facility are detected in soil vapor in the study area, GE will contact property owners and offer to install depressurization systems.

Next Steps: More Information Coming

GE and the state agencies are committed to providing people living in the study area with accurate and complete information promptly:

- If the indoor air in your home was sampled by GE as part of this project, GE will provide you with the preliminary and final data.
- If your home is located where TCE has been identified in soil vapor, GE will contact you to offer to install a depressurization system.
- If your home is located where no TCE or other volatile organic compounds have been identified in soil vapor, GE will contact you with that information as well.
- The Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation soon will meet with the public to answer questions about the indoor air sampling program.

If, in the meantime, you have questions, please call or write:

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