



State of Vermont  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management & Prevention Division  
One National Life Drive - Davis 1  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704

**Elmwood Avenue Soil Vapor Investigation**

Dear property owner/resident,

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation is working with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate chemicals found in the soil gas (air pockets in the soil) along Elmwood Avenue in Burlington. The investigation may also take place on surrounding streets including, but not limited to, Lafountain Street, Spring Street, Intervale Avenue, and Archibald Street. The chemicals of interest are **tetrachloroethylene (PCE)** and **trichloroethylene (TCE)**, which are commonly used for dry cleaning and as degreasing solvents. These chemicals can move from the soil gas into the air of buildings through the foundation. When these chemicals are breathed in, they can be harmful to your health. More testing is needed to find out if there are possible health risks in your neighborhood.

**Next Steps**

EPA is developing a sampling plan for the next phase of testing in this neighborhood. They are currently gathering information to determine where samples will be collected. We may need to access your property/residence to collect soil gas samples and, potentially, indoor air samples. If sampling at your property/residence is needed, EPA will provide you with a property access agreement prior to conducting this work.

**Health Impacts of PCE and TCE**

The chemicals that EPA will test for, specifically PCE and TCE, can produce a variety of health effects. Exposure to these chemicals can increase a person's risk of getting cancer. The chemicals can affect the development of a baby if a woman is exposed to them while pregnant. These chemicals can also affect the immune system and central nervous system. These effects vary with exposure duration and levels.

If it is determined that your property/residence has elevated soil gas concentrations, corrective action measures will be implemented. A sub-slab depressurization system is the most common technology used and is the same type of system that is used to mitigate radon gas.

**Questions about the testing process can be directed to the Department of Environmental Conservation:**

Michael Nahmias, Environmental Analyst  
1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT  
802-522-4595  
[Michael.Nahmias@vermont.gov](mailto:Michael.Nahmias@vermont.gov)

Kimberly Caldwell, Environmental Analyst  
1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT  
802-461-5857  
[Kimberly.Caldwell@vermont.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Caldwell@vermont.gov)

**Questions about the chemicals and their possible health effects can be directed to the Department of Health:**

Environmental Health Division  
1-800-439-8550  
[www.healthvermont.gov/dry-cleaning-chemicals](http://www.healthvermont.gov/dry-cleaning-chemicals)

