



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY

Public Health Department

Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director

Penny Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

December 24, 2015

Dear Resident,

I am writing to alert you to the detection of trichloroethene, also known as Trichloroethylene or TCE in several groundwater samples from the area of Buckley Road, east of Davenport Creek Road, Evans Road and Thread Lane. The Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division of the Public Health Department conducted limited sampling this month, upon consent of neighboring residents, following a recent odor complaint involving a resident's well. A single water test done on that well exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and led EHS to conduct sampling of other nearby wells.

During the follow up sampling TCE was detected above the MCL in 5 of 11 wells. The MCL is 5 micrograms per liter of water ($\mu\text{g/L}$) established by the State Water Resources Control Board under Health & Safety Code §116365(a.)

TCE exposure through consumption of water or aerosolized vapor, in excess of the MCL, can lead to long-term health problems, such as liver or kidney damage, and may result in an increased risk of cancer. TCE is a colorless, volatile, non-flammable liquid that has a sweet solvent or chloroform-like odor. TCE has been historically used as a solvent and degreaser, in the production of some textiles, and dry cleaning.

Affected well owners whose water exceeds the MCL for TCE are advised to use bottled water for cooking and drinking, and install activated carbon shower head filters until they install a water treatment system to reduce the TCE concentration below the MCL. A short list of companies who can perform water analysis and water treatment is enclosed. The attached list is not a complete list of all companies who provide these services nor an endorsement. Residents are advised to retain receipts from any testing and treatment activities.

The EHS Division has inspected facilities and properties in the surrounding area and has not found a current or historical source of TCE. The Water Board (RWQCB) has authority to protect groundwater and is conducting an ongoing investigation. Contact Thea Tryon at the RWQCB with questions 805-542-4776. Questions for EHS may be directed to Aaron LaBarre or Scott Milner at 805-781-5544.

In addition, the Water Board and the Public Health Department are in the process of scheduling a community meeting for the public who may wish to learn about this matter. Please stay tuned for that information. For more information on TCE, visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/well_owners.shtml and
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/resources.shtml#coc.

See also attached TCE Fact Sheet with questions and answers.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Pozzebon,
Director Environmental Health Services Division

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES

Certified for Drinking Water Analyses

TCE analysis by EPA method 8260B

Abalone Coast Analytical, Inc.
141 Suburban Rd., Suite C-1
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-595-1080

FGL - Fruit Growers Laboratory, Inc.
3442 Empresa Dr., Suite D
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-783-2940

OEC – Oilfield Environmental & Compliance, Inc.
307 Roemer Way, Suite 300
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805-922-4772

Local Water Treatment Companies

Culligan
805-543-0961

Hague
805-528-8990

Rayne
805-543-8797