

# Who Should I Contact About Vapor Intrusion Investigations?

RR-934

April 2013

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) program oversees the investigation and cleanup for all environmental contaminant pathways, including vapor intrusion. Both DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services/Division of Public Health (DHS/DPH) and local health departments have the responsibility for ensuring that human health is protected at contaminated sites for both residential and non-residential properties. To avoid duplication of effort and to be effective and efficient in assessing risk to human health at contaminated sites with vapor intrusion issues, we recommend that the following criteria be used for determining when to involve DHS/DPH in vapor intrusion cases:

## DNR Responsibility

- Provide answers to questions relating to site investigation, mitigation, remediation, follow-up monitoring, closure decisions, etc. Examples include:
  - collecting sub-slab, soil vapor or indoor air samples;
  - vapor intrusion sampling techniques;
  - sampling & analysis methodology and frequency;
  - developing a conceptual site model;
  - where to collect samples;
  - post-mitigation monitoring for sub-slab & indoor air; and
  - assessing & interpreting soil, sub-slab and indoor air vapor results.
- Work with DHS/DPH staff in all situations where people may be exposed to contaminants of concern.

## Health Agency Responsibility

- Provide support when indoor air concentrations exceed Action Level(s) of contaminants. An Action Level is equal either of the following: a hazard index (HI) of 1.0 or a 1-in-100,000 excess lifetime cancer risk. DHS/DPH should be consulted to ensure that the indoor air risk is mitigated and building occupants are protected.
- Provide support to interpret and communicate indoor air results.
- When needed, help with gaining access to homes or businesses to collect sub-slab or indoor air samples to:
  - communicate risk from chemical exposures,
  - explain why samples need to be collected, and
  - address health concerns or questions.

There are overlapping responsibilities between DHS/DPH and DNR regarding indoor air risks at vapor intrusion sites. The goal is to involve DHS/DPH and local health departments in site investigation decisions when a risk to human health may exist. This allows DHS/DPH more time for collaboration with city and county health departments, which are the lead public health authorities throughout Wisconsin.

Questions? Contact Alyssa Sellwood at DNR: 608-266-3084, [Alyssa.Sellwood@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Sellwood@wisconsin.gov) or Liz Evans at DHS/DPH: 608-266-3393, [Elizabeth.Evans@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Evans@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "brownfield"

