Madison Residents, in the Vicinity of Madison Kipp Corporation

Subject: Soil and Groundwater Contamination at the Madison Kipp Corporation Facility, 201 Waubesa Street, Madison, WI

Soil and groundwater contamination has been identified in the vicinity of Madison Kipp Corporation, located at 201 Waubesa Street on Madison’s East side. The compound tetrachloroethane (PCE), used during production processes, was apparently released to the surface and subsurface environment from spills occurring at an aboveground storage tank where the solvent material was stored. Efforts are underway to remediate contaminated soil, which is limited to an area behind the Madison Kipp building on Waubesa Street. The degree and extent of groundwater contamination at the facility has, for the most part, been determined. Efforts to determine the full extent of the groundwater contaminate plume are continuing and dependent on identifying appropriate locations to place additional groundwater monitoring wells which are not obstructed with utilities or other physical barriers.

The contamination at Madison Kipp was first discovered as a result of investigation conducted in 1993 and 1994 at the nearby Madison Brass Works property. Investigation at that site led to the conclusion that contaminated groundwater was migrating from the Madison Kipp site. Based on the investigation at Madison Brass Works, the Department notified Madison Kipp on July 18, 1994 of their obligation to fully determine the degree and extent of soil and groundwater contamination resulting from activity at the facility, and to appropriately address that contamination. Madison Kipp has to date complied with requirements to investigate and remediate the contaminated soil and groundwater found at the site. In this effort they have hired an environmental consultant, Dames and Moore, to assist in the compliance with requirements stipulated in Wisconsin Administrative Code (NR 700). Currently Madison Kipp is one of approximately 500 other sites in Dane County where investigation or remediation of contaminated media is ongoing.

The contamination at Madison Kipp has been identified in two main areas at the facility, near a sewer drain where runoff of contaminant releases at the aboveground storage tank area accumulated and below a vent where the material historically condensed and fell to the ground. The soil contamination is limited to areas around the two sources and from these areas vertically to the groundwater, approximately twenty feet below the ground surface. The groundwater is impacted from directly below the source areas of soil contamination and horizontally in a direction of groundwater flow (generally towards Lake Monona). The concentrations of the contamination in groundwater decreases significantly away from the source areas.

The extent of soil contamination has been defined and active treatment of the impacted soil has been conducted at the Madison Kipp facility. The investigation to determine the extent of groundwater contamination is continuing and remedial options will be evaluated upon completion of the groundwater investigation.
The two most likely routes of exposure to contamination at the Madison Kipp site are by direct ingestion of contaminated soil or by drinking contaminated groundwater. The risk is quite low for both potential routes of exposure, contaminated soil is limited to an area behind the Madison Kipp building and the City of Madison is served by a series of municipal wells rather than private wells. The Madison Water Utility conducts periodic sampling and analysis of water which is supplied from the nearest municipal drinking water well. Annual testing of municipal well #8 indicates that the contaminants which are of concern at the Madison Kipp facility, have not been found to exceed, or even approach, the acceptable health standards established in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The compound cis-1,2, dichloroethane was detected in municipal well #8 at the concentration of 0.27 ppb. The standard established by the Federal Safe Water Drinking Act and NR 809, Wis. Admin. Code for Safe Drinking Water is 5.0 ppb. The presence of the compound detected in municipal well #8 cannot, at this time, be directly attributed to the release at the Madison Kipp facility. The municipal well which is located near Olbrich park, is cased to a depth of 280 feet and draws water from over 700 feet below the ground surface.

In June of this year, Waubesa Street in the vicinity of Madison Kipp was reconstructed by the City of Madison Department of Engineering. As part of the project, the sanitary sewer line beneath Waubesa Street was replaced. The sewer installation was a routine upgrade for the area and was not related to the soil/groundwater contamination investigation or remediation at the Madison Kipp site. During the installation of the new line, a trench between 5 and 8 feet wide and approximately 8 feet deep was dug along the street. There were no signs of soil contamination in the trench and groundwater was not encountered. All street reconstruction activities, which included the sewer installation, curb/gutter/sidewalk replacement and resurfacing were completed in July 1999.

If you have any questions regarding the efforts to investigate and remediate the Madison Kipp property, please feel free to contact me at 275-3299. Relevant information may also be obtained from John Hausbeck, Madison Public Health Department 294-5315 and Joe Demorrett, Madison Engineering Department 267-1986.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dino Tsoris, P.G.
Hydrogeologist
Remediation & Redevelopment Program
Telephone (608) 275-3299