



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-222-4462

September 13, 2013

Deborah Cylke
Superintendent
Pawtucket School Department
286 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

RE: Concerns raised by the public
Potential Trichloroethylene (TCE) vapors in soil gas near Francis J. Varieur School
486 Pleasant Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Dear Ms. Cylke:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (the Department) received Barney Heath's August 9, 2013 letter regarding the concerns raised by the Tidewater Stakeholders Group about potential Trichloroethylene (TCE) vapors in soil gas near the Varieur School. In his letter, Mr. Heath, Director of the City of Pawtucket's Department of Planning and Redevelopment, indicated that future correspondence related to this matter should be directed to your attention.

The Department appreciates the City's prompt response to the public's concerns and concurs with the City's intent to conduct soil gas sampling at the school with the assistance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As you may already be aware, National Grid recently completed its soil gas investigation at the adjacent former Tidewater Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site. It is the Department's understanding that the investigation results have already been shared by National Grid with representatives of the City. The air and soil gas data are also publicly available via electronic download on both the Department's and National Grid's respective Tidewater web pages.

The analytical soil gas results show the highest detections of TCE and a similar chlorinated solvent, Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), at locations on the upgradient perimeter of the Tidewater property closest to the Varieur School. TCE and PCE are not contaminants typically associated with releases at former MGP sites, and neither of these constituents appears to originate from the hydraulically downgradient Tidewater property.

As the City's investigation of the quality of soil gas near the Varieur School proceeds, please continue to share the information obtained with the Department.

As we indicated in our previous correspondence, the Department remains very willing and committed to working cooperatively with the City of Pawtucket and the Pawtucket School Department throughout the resolution of these concerns. If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like the opportunity

to meet with Department personnel to discuss the City's plans to evaluate or assess the property, please contact me by telephone at (401) 222-2797, extension 7109 or by e-mail at joseph.martella@dem.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph T. Martella II
Senior Engineer
Rhode Island DEM
Office of Waste Management

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