



Kansas City Petroleum Release Cleveland Avenue and East 31st Street

Hazardous Waste and Environmental Services program FAQ
10/2016

Background

One of the roles of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is to investigate concerns regarding petroleum releases. In late 2014 and early 2015, residents and businesses in the area of East 31st Street and Cleveland Avenue reported petroleum odors both outside and inside their homes and businesses. The department received a previous concern in the same area in 2006, and determined the petroleum vapors came from the sewer line. At that time, extensive repairs were made to the sewer line to prevent the petroleum from entering the affected sewer main, thereby eliminating the risk of petroleum vapors in homes. Following concerns received in 2015, video surveillance revealed the petroleum contamination underground had moved beyond the section of sewer line that was previously repaired. Specifically, a broken lateral sewer line allowed petroleum to flow into the sewer main and vapors migrated into the building drains of properties that are serviced by the sewer line. The department has been working with the affected property owners to alleviate odors and take actions to eliminate exposure to this contamination.

What has been done in 2015 and 2016?

In early 2015, the department issued a Hazardous Substance Emergency Declaration that required the responsible party (Zill LLC) to eliminate odors and determine the full extent of the release. As part of this effort, Zill LLC's contractor upgraded the plumbing systems at the affected properties and installed groundwater monitoring wells to further investigate the extent of the release. The contractor also attempted to repair the compromised sewer line and remove petroleum from contaminated groundwater monitoring wells. Despite these efforts, the department continued to receive complaints from the affected property owners. Due to the ongoing complaints, questions regarding additional potential sources of the petroleum and lack of expedited progress, the department stepped in with its own contractors and made the additional repairs to the sewer connection to address the situation. The repairs were made in July 2015, with additional repairs completed in November 2015. In addition to repairing the sewer line, the department collected sub-slab and indoor air sampling at the affected properties. The samples collected at that time did not contain petroleum contamination at levels of concern.

In 2016, the department continued to conduct periodic monitoring of the sewers in the area to determine if additional odors were occurring. The department developed and issued an odor survey for the public that was distributed hard copy at various public meetings and put electronically online at the department's website. The department followed up on surveys and complaints submitted by the public that indicated gas fumes were present, but it was unable to confirm vapor impact to sewers or residents. In August 2016, the department observed an investigation by the tank site owner looking for other sources of petroleum and collecting

additional information about groundwater and free product in monitoring wells on several properties. At this time, the department has received a report on some of the activities performed, but not all.

What's next?

The department will continue to press Zill LLC to investigate the full extent of the contamination resulting from their releases and address all risks posed by the contamination. Updates will continue to be posted to the department's website as they obtained. The department will also continue coordination with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Kansas City Department of Health, the Kansas City Water Services Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VII.

Where did the odors come from?

Petroleum entered the sewer lines along Cleveland Avenue and created inside odors which entered the affected buildings via their service lines. Outside odors can be generated by operating gas stations or created by petroleum cleanup actions. Cleanup actions may include digging into petroleum-contaminated soils or removing petroleum from groundwater monitoring wells by using a high-vacuum extraction system. In 2015, contractors completed such activities in an effort to remove contamination and limit exposure. Such cleanup activities often generate petroleum odors temporarily. The contractors' future efforts will include notifying neighbors in the area of planned activities and work schedules. As they are received, these notices, as well as on-going updates on the project, will be posted on the department's website at dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/clevelandavekc.htm.

Who do I contact if I detect petroleum odors?

If any residents or businesses detect petroleum odors, they may contact the department's 24-hour spill line at 573-634-2436. When reporting a petroleum odor, please provide the address or approximate location of the odor and any potential sources observed. Anyone who has experienced petroleum odors in this area in the past is encouraged to submit an online Petroleum Odor Survey that is available on the department's website at dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/clevelandavekc.htm.

Where can I find additional information on the department's website?

For more information regarding this investigation, visit the department's website at dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/clevelandavekc.htm or call 800-361-4827.

Who do I contact if I have health concerns and questions?

Distributed with this information sheet is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Automotive Gasoline Fact Sheet, which provides general information on gasoline exposure. This fact sheet is also available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tf.asp?id=467&tid=83. To speak with someone about health related concerns or general questions, contact the Kansas City Department of Health at 816-513-6008 or by email to health@kcmo.org.

Additional Information on Petroleum Contamination:

Department of Health and Senior Services' Vapor Intrusion Fact Sheet
health.mo.gov/living/environment/hazsubstancesites/pdf/VaporIntrusion.pdf