

August 19 Update: Private Well Contamination in Plumstead Township

DEP Contractor to Mobilize at Site

DEP this week met with its environmental contractor, Tetra Tech, which has been retained to perform onsite remedial and investigative work at 5189 Stump Road. The work, which is being funded through the state's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, initially will include completing the removal of contaminated water from the two ponds, sampling the water that is being removed, sampling the sediment at the bottom of the ponds, and taking soil samples from around the ponds.

During the week of August 23, Tetra Tech also will perform air monitoring at the site.

Recent Test Results for Local Wells Reflect Sampling Techniques

New volatile organic results, processed in DEP's Harrisburg lab both as fixed and unfixed samples, seem to bear out the hypothesis that benzene levels in well and pond water were affected by the sampling technique. Fixed samples, which were processed using hydrochloric acid, have generally revealed benzene levels to be at least twice as high as those found in unfixed samples. The latest volatile organic results are incomplete, but to date indicate that in unfixed samples, **no drinking water wells are currently impacted by benzene levels above the drinking water standard of 5 ppb.**

During the week of August 23, DEP will take confirming samples at a few of the homes that have been provided with whole house water supplies.

A follow-up to the August 10 Public Meeting:

Homeowners who live outside of the current study area and who have asked about parameters for testing their wells will want to contact a [DEP-accredited laboratory](#) and should consider having the following tests performed, in addition to their routine bacteriological testing:

- Volatiles in drinking water, ask for Method 524.2
- Semi-volatiles in drinking water, ask for Method 525.2
- Metals in drinking water, ask for Method 200.7, 200.8 and ask specifically for any other metals of interest not listed in those test methods.

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DEP will continue to provide updates as new information about private well contamination in Plumstead Township becomes available.