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## New Guidelines for Former Clean-up Sites

When vapors from contaminated ground water and soil enter a residential or commercial structure vapor intrusion is the result. In the 1990's it was common practice to leave untreated contaminated soil and groundwater at a remediated site based upon the results from the risk assessment study. In 2002 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its "Draft Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air Pathway from Groundwater and Soils (Subsurface Vapor Intrusion Guidance)." Several states took note of the EPA's efforts and have either adopted the EPA guidance document or have created one of their own. Recent studies have indicated that groundwater concentrations of contaminants are not a good indicator of risk from vapor intrusion. As a result, the



Vapor Intrusion contamination originating from nearby sites can negatively affect the health of unsuspecting residents.

### Endicott Site

In 1979 IBM reported a TCE spill at their manufacturing facility near Binghamton, New York.

For over 25 years two billion gallons of groundwater have passed through one of six treatment systems.

The TCE in the groundwater is now very close to drinking water standards of 5 ppb.

Because of the low groundwater concentration vapor intrusion was not seen as a risk.

Elevated levels of TCE and PCE vapors have migrated into over 400 nearby residences.

EPA along with thirty state environmental agencies are now saying that even small residual amounts left at sites could cause vapor intrusion and adversely impact the health of exposed individuals. There are emerging reports that indicate that exposure to low levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) may cause adverse health effects. Of particular concern is exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE). Many of the sites

that have gone through remediation and have been granted "No Further Action" letters from the government are now seen as potential sources of vapor intrusion. Findings like those at the Endicott Site (above) have caused regulators to reconsider previous risk assumptions.

DataChem's TO-15 and TO-17 analysis screens for indoor air contaminants. Contact your project manager for further information, or call us at

Attending the Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene in Louisville, Kentucky this October?

Stop by booth 37 to find out how DataChem can help your company with its analytical needs.

## Analysis of the Month

### TO-15 / TO-17

For the month of August, DataChem's Salt Lake lab is offering **VOC Analysis using TO-15 or TO-17 for \$200**. For further details contact us at [info@datachem.com](mailto:info@datachem.com). For a complete list of our Salt Lake lab services [click here](#).

To take advantage of the offer simply refer to the newsletter in your analytical request. Discount is only available at our Salt Lake facility.

## Methamphetamine and Brownfield

Easy and inexpensive to produce, methamphetamine has caused more drug-related, local law enforcement issues than cocaine and heroin combined. Meth use is associated with burglaries, domestic violence and child abuse/neglect. One side effect to methamphetamine production that often goes unspoken is the toxic effect it's having on our environment. Although there are a handful of recipes to cook meth everyone of them involve chemicals that are extremely harmful in some capacity. Clandestine meth labs can be found in homes, apartments, garages, campers, hotel rooms and cars. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice indicated there were over seven thousand lab incidents reported.

**Our communities face many challenges, from keeping our kids safe in public, to the war on terrorism. But few have such immediate consequences as we face from methamphetamine.**

*Mark Kennedy*

*U.S. House of Representatives*

In 2004 that number rose to over seventeen thousand. Illegal meth production leaves a wake of contaminated properties. For every pound of methamphetamine produced approximately six pounds of waste is generated. This waste is often disposed of in drains, wells, streams, rivers and fields leaving an environmental mess. The clean-up costs associated with a former meth lab are vast and are typically the burden of the property owner. Congress has made Brownfield funding available to assist in clean-up efforts. Funding and assistance under Brownfield includes: assessment grants, cleanup grants, revolving loan fund grants, job training grants, and targeted Brownfield assessments. For additional information on the Brownfield program visit [www.epa.gov/brownfields/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/index.html)

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