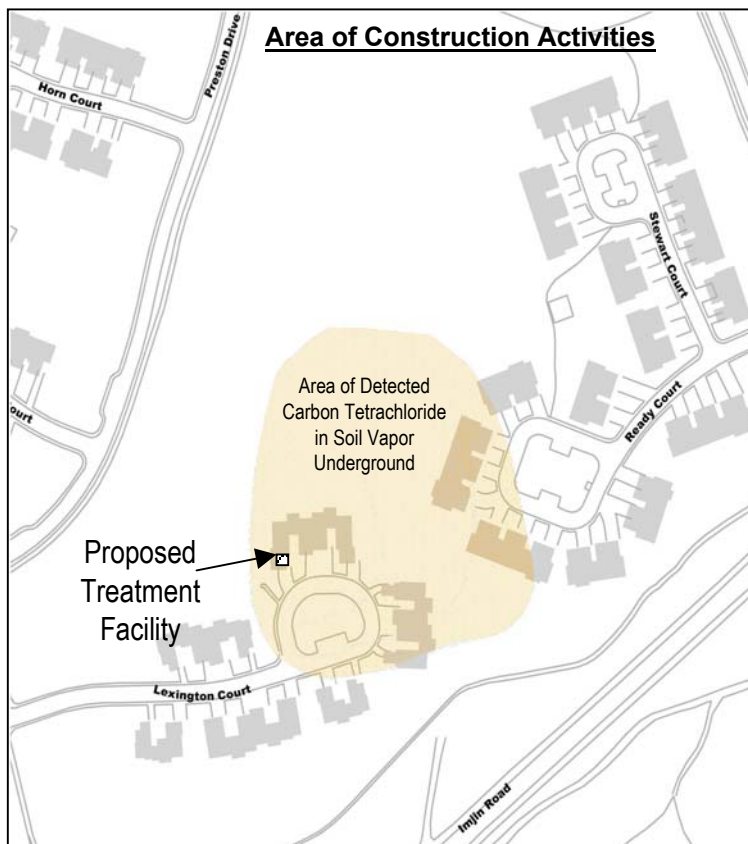


CARBON TETRACHLORIDE INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Upcoming Construction Activities – January 2004

Residents of Lexington and Ready Courts will be seeing construction workers and equipment in their neighborhood over the next few months. The Army is designing and building a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system to remove carbon tetrachloride in the soil in this area.

In 1997 the Army discovered the presence of carbon tetrachloride in groundwater and has been actively investigating since that time. One of the goals of the investigation has been to locate the specific source area of the carbon tetrachloride.



When carbon tetrachloride drains through soil, it leaves a vapor trail trapped between the soil particles that may remain for many years. Therefore, one way of finding the source area includes testing air trapped in soil (soil vapor) in the suspected area. The Army tested soil vapor in the Preston Park and Abrams housing areas in 2002 and 2003 and found carbon tetrachloride near Lexington and Ready Courts. Based on these tests, the Army believes it has identified the location of the source for the carbon tetrachloride.

WHAT IS CARBON TETRACHLORIDE?

Carbon tetrachloride is a man-made product that does not occur in nature. Until the 1980's it was used in the production of refrigerants and propellants for aerosol cans; as a pesticide; as a cleaning fluid and degreasing agent; in fire extinguishers; and in spot removers. The use of carbon tetrachloride is now strictly regulated for only limited applications and it is no longer permitted in products intended for home use. Before its use was restricted, people commonly used carbon tetrachloride as a cleaning solvent in their homes or in businesses.

HISTORICAL USE OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE AT THE FORMER FORT ORD

By carefully examining old aerial photos, a training facility appears to have been located at what is now Lexington Court. Given the proximity of this facility to the source area of carbon tetrachloride and the probability that this chemical was used as a cleaning solvent there, it is likely historical activity at this site represents the source of carbon tetrachloride that the Army has been investigating. Because this facility is not shown on any available maps, the Preston Park and Abrams housing areas were constructed without knowledge of its former existence or the potential use of hazardous chemicals at this location.

HEALTH RISK ASSESSED

In addition to contaminating groundwater, carbon tetrachloride in soil vapor has the potential to migrate up through the soil to the ground surface, where the vapor could enter homes directly above the area of contamination. Low concentrations of carbon tetrachloride were detected in soil vapor in a portion of the Preston Park and Abrams housing areas. The Army has performed an initial health risk assessment for residents who could potentially breathe in the vapors using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance. This initial health risk assessment indicates that the carbon tetrachloride in soil vapor found in the Lexington and Ready Courts areas does not pose a threat to human health. The health-protective assumptions from EPA's guidance included residents being exposed to the vapors from within their homes continuously for a 30-year period. The houses in the area of Lexington and Ready Courts were vacant for several years, and have not been occupied for more than a ten-year period by either the current residents or the military families that lived there before Fort Ord was closed.

ARMY WILL CONSTRUCT A SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION SYSTEM

The Army is responsible for cleaning up the carbon tetrachloride at the former Fort Ord and is currently designing and will install a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. This system will draw the vapor from the surrounding soil and pipe it to a treatment facility where the carbon tetrachloride will be safely removed. The Army plans to have the soil vapor extraction system operating by late March 2004.

The Army's initial health risk assessment indicates that the carbon tetrachloride in soil vapor found in the Lexington Court area does not pose a threat to human health at this time. In addition the existing carbon tetrachloride in the soil will be removed with operation of the soil vapor extraction system.

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