

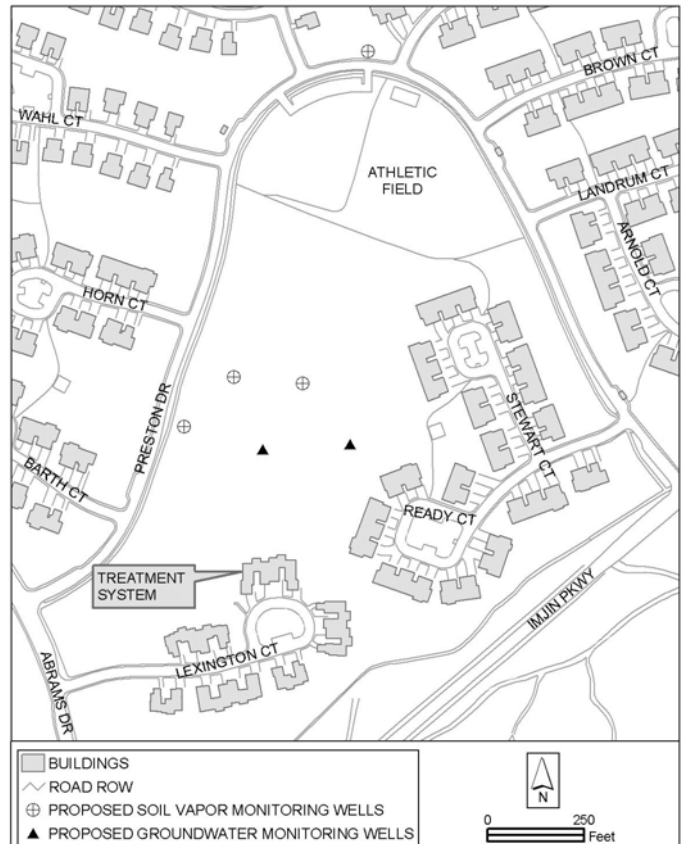
Upcoming Construction Activities – August 2004

Carbon Tetrachloride Update

Residents of Preston Park and Lexington Court in Abrams Park will be seeing construction workers and equipment in their neighborhood in early August. Why? The Army is drilling three additional wells and collecting samples to further investigate carbon tetrachloride in the soil in this area. In March, the Army built a soil vapor extraction treatment system. The system ran for three months and removed carbon tetrachloride from the soil gas vapor. Concentrations of carbon tetrachloride have been reduced substantially at locations where it was previously detected. A report with the comprehensive analysis of the carbon tetrachloride investigations will be reported in the Carbon Tetrachloride Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study, to be issued in January 2005.

In 1997 the Army discovered the presence of carbon tetrachloride in groundwater and has been actively investigating since that time. Some of the goals of the investigation are to 1) locate the specific source area of the carbon tetrachloride, 2) build a treatment system and 3) continue to check the area to make sure that the area remains clean and there is no “rebound” of carbon tetrachloride in the soil vapor. 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 upcoming construction work includes the use of soil probes to sample the soil vapor in Preston Park. The water is safe to drink and use for all home and work activities. Water quality is very important and it is regularly tested by the Marina Coast Water District according to strict federal and state requirements.



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

On old aerial photos, a building 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 building 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 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 a health risk assessment for residents who could potentially breathe in the vapors using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance. This 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 BUILT A SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION SYSTEM

The Army is responsible for cleaning up the carbon tetrachloride at the former Fort Ord. In March the Army built a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system on Lexington Court. During the 3-month operation, this system drew the vapor from the surrounding soil and piped it to a treatment facility where the carbon tetrachloride was safely removed.

The Army's 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 carbon tetrachloride in the soil has been removed with operation of the soil vapor extraction system.

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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Or you can visit the Fort Ord Cleanup web site at www.fortordcleanup.com. In July 2004, there was a presentation about this issue. For the meeting summary notes and the slide presentation go to <http://www.fortordcleanup.com/community/viewmeeting.asp?document=13jul04>