



# Studies Near Completion

**Copley Square Plaza Superfund Site**  
Copley, Ohio

February 2008

## For more information

To learn more about the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site, contact one of these team members:

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You may review site-related  
documents at:  
Copley Township Trustees Office  
1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road  
Copley

Fairlawn-Bath Public Library  
3101 Smith Road  
Akron

### Web site

Information pertaining to the Copley Square Plaza site is available on this Web site:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/copleysquare/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/copleysquare/index.htm)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is finishing a detailed study of the pollution problems at the Copley Square Plaza Superfund site and will then examine cleanup options. EPA and state partner Ohio EPA have been investigating polluted underground water (called ground water in environmental terms) south and east of the Copley Square Plaza Shopping Center.

Investigators believe a former dry cleaner in the shopping plaza allowed a chemical called tetrachloroethene, commonly known as PERC, to soak into the ground where it contaminated underground water. PERC is in a class of chemicals called volatile organic compounds or VOCs. VOCs can dissolve in water and evaporate easily, giving off dangerous fumes. The study being done by the federal and state regulators is called a “remedial investigation” and is designed to find out the extent and location of the PERC pollution.

During the remedial investigation, EPA examined private homes and Meadows of Copley units located near the shopping plaza. The PERC-contaminated ground water has formed a plume or mass of water that is affecting some private homes and possibly some residences in the Meadows of Copley. Not only is the plume not safe for drinking should a private well tap into it, but the pollution may pose the threat of “vapor intrusion.” Vapor intrusion happens when dissolved VOCs carried along in underground water release gas that rises through the soil and seeps into indoor air through basement and foundation cracks.

## Meadows of Copley

All of the units in the Meadows of Copley are on public water supply, so drinking water contamination is not a concern. Samples were collected at four buildings, which contain 26 units, for soil gas and indoor air contamination. The four buildings were selected for testing because they sit nearest the underground plume. Sample holes were drilled next to the buildings as well as in an undeveloped area to the west.

Low levels of PERC and other VOCs were detected in the indoor air but not at levels considered dangerous in the short term. EPA is considering steps to prevent possible vapor intrusion problems that could develop in the long term.

## Private homes

The remedial investigation tested 23 homes, including eight already on filtration systems, along Copley Road, and north and south of Plainview Road. EPA was looking for PERC contamination in private well water and the indoor air at some of the homes. Sampling mapped out the boundaries of a ground-water plume extending from Copley Square Plaza southeast along Copley Road to South Plainview Road and Appletree Road. Contamination wasn't found in any additional homes.

Some homes were also tested for vapor intrusion. Investigators drilled a 1-inch diameter hole 6-8 feet deep outside each house and sampled for gas trapped between soil particles. Basements were also sampled. VOCs were found in some of the samples. Sample results were mailed to the affected homeowners.

### Next steps

When the remedial investigation is completed, EPA will do a "feasibility study" to look at a range of cleanup options. The feasibility study should be completed this spring. EPA will then select a cleanup option, called a "proposed plan," and ask the public to comment on it.

After a public meeting and comment period for residents to give their input, EPA and Ohio EPA will evaluate the feedback received and pick an official cleanup plan in a document called a record of decision. Notice of the decision will be published in a local newspaper. Documents related to the Copley Square Superfund site, such as the remedial investigation, feasibility study and record of decision when completed, are available for public review at the Copley Township offices and Fairlawn-Bath Public Library (see front-page box for locations). You can also contact EPA and Ohio EPA representatives or look on the Web for more information (see front for contacts).



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