

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Conbraco/Aalberts Facility TCE Remediation



Matthews, North Carolina

Fact Sheet #1

December 2021

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) continue to investigate and monitor inhalation risks associated with trichloroethylene (TCE) at the former Conbraco Industries, Inc. facility. Conbraco Industries, Inc. is now known as Aalberts Integrated Piping Systems Americas, Inc. (Aalberts). This fact sheet provides a brief description of the response activities EPA has taken to date and future response activities.

Prior Response Description and Activities

In September 2021, Aalberts collected indoor air samples in all occupied spaces of the building to detect the presence of TCE. TCE was found above the risk action level of $8.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in all tenant spaces. The EPA and NCDEQ immediately notified all tenants of the risks and recommended they not enter the building. The NCDEQ held Virtual Listening Sessions on October 4th and 5th to disseminate information and answer questions. In accordance with NCDEQ policy, Aalberts has installed mitigation systems to reduce the TCE concentrations in indoor air. They installed Air Purifying (AP) units in all tenant spaces, added carbon filters in the HVAC system, and increased fresh air-intake in the building.

Vapor Intrusion (VI)

Vapor intrusion occurs when vapor-forming chemicals in groundwater evaporate and make their way into indoor air. These vapor-forming chemicals are called volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. This kind of organic chemical compound evaporates under average temperatures and pressure. The vapors can move underground through soils to cracks in buildings and foundations and into the air in buildings, which could threaten indoor air quality and human health. For more information, please visit: www.epa.gov/vaporintrusion.

Current Status

Aalberts is implementing an EPA-approved Vapor Intrusion (VI) investigation to understand how TCE is migrating indoors from beneath the building. The VI Investigation Work Plan requires sampling for contaminants in both the soil gas beneath the building's foundation and indoor air. The sampling data is used to design a permanent mitigation system to prevent vapors from getting indoors. After installation, Aalberts will be required to show through two consecutive sampling events that concentrations of TCE in indoor air are below $8.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This will allow the building to be safely reoccupied.

Indoor Sampling Results

On October 20th and 21st, Aalberts re-sampled indoor air in the building. The results show that TCE concentrations in the Aalberts office space have fallen below below $8.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, but the warehouse and other tenant spaces remain above $8.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. EPA will re-evaluate conditions and determine if the building, or possibly portions of the building, may be re-occupied as data is collected. All data and results will be shared on the Public Repository ([linked here](#)) of information.

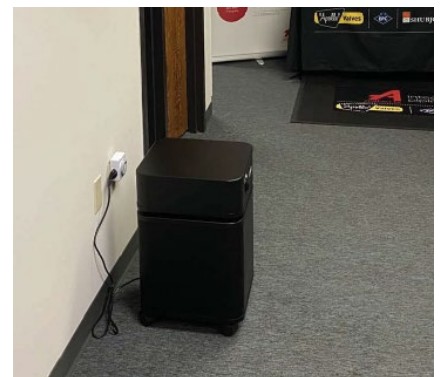


Figure 1 Air Purifying Unit

Next Steps

Each step of the VI Investigation and Remediation Process requires EPA, NCDEQ, and Aalberts to coordinate on regulatory review, field work, and laboratory analysis to process and validate sampling data. A tentative timeline is provided for each step below. We are working diligently to complete each step in the process as quickly as possible. The remediation process is very involved, and we are committed to ensuring everyone's health and safety. We appreciate your continued patience as we obtain the necessary data to make appropriate recommendations!

<i>Investigation and Response Timeline</i>	
<i>January</i>	Vapor Intrusion Investigation
<i>February</i>	Vapor Intrusion Report submission with remediation system design evaluations
<i>March-April</i>	EPA approval of remediation system
<i>TBD</i>	Vapor Intrusion remediation system installed
<i>TBD</i>	Sample indoor air to validate the effectiveness of the remediation system as a permanent solution



Figure 2 Summa Cannister for Indoor Air Sampling

An EPA investigation is also ongoing to determine the cause of contaminated groundwater in the area. Underground sampling tools and procedures are being used to understand the groundwater flow patterns and depths. This work is being done in coordination with NCDEQ.

Following the Vapor Intrusion Investigation, the EPA will hold a public meeting with all companies and their employees to discuss the results and the path forward. If you would like to receive fact sheets and other updates via emailed, please contact Kevin Greaney, EPA Project Manager, at Greaney.Kevin@epa.gov.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) also has a summary about contaminants, called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on TCE at <https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=172&toxid=30>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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EPA Webpage and Public Repository

www.epa.gov/nc/former-conbraco-industries-inc-corrective-action-site