



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Ground Water Sampling Of And Around Webb Well Field

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### **Background:**

- The Webb Well Field consists of three municipal wells in the town of Franklin that supplement the municipal water supply for Johnson County.
- Two wells in the Webb Well Field have shown to be contaminated with the chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene based on routine samples collected in compliance with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) reporting requirements.
- The Indiana American Water Company has discontinued use of the two contaminated wells. They remain open for use in emergency situations only.
- The municipal water supply for the town of Franklin remains safe to consume.

### **Description:**

- Staff from IDEM will be conducting a ground water investigation in the area around and including the Webb Well Field in Franklin, Johnson County, from April 16 through April 18, 2012.
- The purpose of this investigation is to identify the source of this ground water contamination and address it so that it no longer affects or threatens this water supply for citizens of Johnson County.
- As part of this investigation, soil and ground water samples will need to be collected from certain depths using direct push sampling technology with mobile drilling equipment. IDEM staff may need to obtain permission from some residents and businesses to access their private properties for the collection of samples.

### **Environmental Impacts:**

- The chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene can be used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities, but typically derive from the anaerobic breakdown of other chemicals (e.g., trichloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene) used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing activities.
- Exposure to these compounds can happen in many ways but most commonly occurs by releases that leach through soil into the ground water and subsequently are taken up into drinking water wells.
- Human exposure to high levels of cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene could cause health problems. The accompanying fact sheet on 1,2-dichloroethene from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry explains these compounds and their affects in more detail.

### **IDEM's Role:**

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program works to assess potential environmental hazards and prioritize contaminated sites for further needed actions. Once the sample results have

been evaluated, IDEM Site Investigation Program staff and management will make a decision regarding future actions.

- IDEM's Site Investigation Program staff will be available to answer questions and address concerns of area residents.

**Citizen's Role:**

- IDEM will request access to private property to obtain ground water or soil samples, or both, using direct push mobile-drilling equipment. The direct push device will be used to drill a two inch diameter hole to the depth of ground water to collect samples of soils and ground water in a specific area. Holes drilled by the direct push device will be refilled with impermeable clay and are afterwards unnoticeable.

**More Information:**

- For information about the sampling event being performed by IDEM, contact Ross Brittain with IDEM's Site Investigations Program, at (317) 234-0345; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-0345; or via e-mail at [rbrittai@idem.IN.gov](mailto:rbrittai@idem.IN.gov).
- For additional health-related information, please contact one of the following:
  - Mark Johnson, regional representative with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (312) 353-3436, or (800) 621-8431, ext. 3-3436;
  - LaNetta Alexander, Director of the Environmental Epidemiology Division at the Indiana State Department of Health, at (317) 234-2827 or [lalexand@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:lalexand@isdh.IN.gov); or,
  - John Bonsett, Director, Johnson County Health Department, at (317) 346-4369, or [jbosnett@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:jbosnett@co.johnson.in.us).
- For information about IDEM's Site Investigations Program, please visit IDEM's website at [www.idem.in.gov/4143.htm](http://www.idem.in.gov/4143.htm).
- For fact sheets and information about cis-1,2- dichloroethylene and trans-1,2- dichloroethylene, or other ground water contaminants, please visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at [www.in.gov/isdh/18878.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/18878.htm), or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's "ToxFAQs" website at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tf.asp?id=463&tid=82](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/tf.asp?id=463&tid=82) .
- Media may contact Barry Sneed, public information officer with IDEM's Office of Media Relations, at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8596; or by e-mail at [bsneed@idem.IN.gov](mailto:bsneed@idem.IN.gov).