

Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Matrix for TCE

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WORKING DRAFT 11.01.04

		INDOOR AIR CONCENTRATION of TCE (mcg/m ³)			
SUB-SLAB VAPOR CONCENTRATION of TCE (mcg/m ³)		< 0.25	0.25 to < 2.5	2.5 to < 5.0	5.0 and above
< 5	1. No further action	2. Take steps to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	3. Take steps to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	4. Take steps to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	
5 to < 50	5. No further action	6. Monitor as appropriate	7. Monitor as appropriate	8. MITIGATE	
50 to < 250	9. Monitor as appropriate	10. Monitor as appropriate	11. MITIGATE	12. MITIGATE	
250 to < 2,500	13. Monitor as appropriate	14. MITIGATE	15. MITIGATE	16. MITIGATE	
2,500 and above	17. Monitor as appropriate	18. MITIGATE	19. MITIGATE	20. MITIGATE	

No further action: Given that TCE was not detected in the indoor air sample and that the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample is not expected to significantly affect indoor air quality, no additional actions are needed to address human exposures.

Take steps to identify source(s) and reduce exposures: The concentration detected in the indoor air sample is likely due to indoor and/or outdoor sources rather than soil vapor intrusion given the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample. Therefore, steps should be taken to identify potential source(s) and to reduce exposures accordingly (e.g., by keeping containers tightly capped or by storing volatile organic compound-containing products in places where people do not spend much time, such as a garage or outdoor shed).

Monitor: Monitoring, including sub-slab vapor, basement air, lowest occupied living space air, and outdoor air sampling, is needed to determine whether concentrations in the indoor air or sub-slab vapor have changed. Monitoring may also be needed to determine whether existing building conditions (e.g., positive pressure heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems) are maintaining the desired mitigation endpoint and to determine whether changes are needed. The type and frequency of monitoring is determined on a site-specific and building-specific basis, taking into account applicable environmental data and building operating conditions. Monitoring is an interim measure required to evaluate exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

Mitigate: Mitigation is needed to minimize current or potential exposures associated with soil vapor intrusion. The most common mitigation methods are sealing preferential pathways in conjunction with installing a sub-slab depressurization system, and changing the pressurization of the building in conjunction with monitoring. The type, or combination of types, of mitigation is determined on a building-specific basis, taking into account building construction and operating conditions. Mitigation is an interim measure implemented to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

See additional notes on page 2.

ADDITIONAL TCE MATRIX NOTES

This matrix provides guidance on actions that should be taken to address current and potential exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. To use the matrix accurately as a tool in the decision-making process, the following must be noted:

- [1] The matrix is generic. As such, it may be necessary to modify recommended actions to accommodate building-specific conditions (e.g., dirt floor in basement, crawl spaces, etc.) and/or site-specific conditions (e.g., proximity of building to identified subsurface contamination) for the protection of public health. Additionally, actions more conservative than those specified within the matrix may be implemented at any time. More conservative actions are often cost-based (e.g., the cost of additional sampling versus the cost of mitigation) rather than health-based.
- [2] Actions provided in the matrix are specific to addressing human exposures. Implementation of these actions does not preclude the need to investigate possible sources of vapor contamination, nor does it preclude the need to remediate contaminated soil vapors or the source of soil vapor contamination.
- [3] Extreme care should be taken during all aspects of sample collection to ensure that high quality data are obtained. Since the data are being used in the decision-making process, the laboratory analyzing the environmental samples must have current Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certification for the appropriate analyte and environmental matrix combinations. Furthermore, samples must be analyzed by methods that can achieve a minimum reporting limit of 0.25 microgram TCE per cubic meter.
- [4] Sub-slab vapor and indoor air samples are typically collected during the heating season since soil vapor intrusion is more likely to occur when a building's heating system is in operation and air is being drawn into the building. If samples are collected during other times of the year, it may be necessary to resample during the heating season to evaluate exposures accurately.
- [5] When current exposures are attributed to sources other than vapor intrusion, the agencies must be provided documentation (e.g., applicable environmental data, completed indoor air sampling questionnaire, digital photographs, etc.) to support a proposed action other than that provided in the matrix box and to support agency assessment and follow-up.

Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Matrix for PCE

WORKING DRAFT 11.05.04

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		INDOOR AIR CONCENTRATION of PCE (mcg/m ³)			
SUB-SLAB VAPOR CONCENTRATION of PCE (mcg/m ³)		< 3	3 to < 30	30 to < 100	100 and above
< 100	1. No further action	2. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	3. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures --- and --- Monitor	4. MITIGATE --- or --- Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures --- and --- Monitor	
100 to < 1,000	5. Monitor	6. Monitor	7. MITIGATE	8. MITIGATE	
1,000 and above	9. MITIGATE	10. MITIGATE	11. MITIGATE	12. MITIGATE	

No further action: Given that PCE was not detected in the indoor air sample and that the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample is not expected to significantly affect indoor air quality, no additional actions are needed to address human exposures.

Take steps to identify source(s) and reduce exposures: The concentration detected in the indoor air sample is likely due to indoor and/or outdoor sources rather than soil vapor intrusion given the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample. Therefore, steps should be taken to identify potential source(s) and to reduce exposures accordingly (e.g., by keeping containers tightly capped or by storing volatile organic compound-containing products in places where people do not spend much time, such as a garage or outdoor shed).

Monitor: Monitoring, including sub-slab vapor, basement air, lowest occupied living space air, and outdoor air sampling, is needed to determine whether concentrations in the indoor air or sub-slab vapor have changed. Monitoring may also be needed to determine whether existing building conditions (e.g., positive pressure heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems) are maintaining the desired mitigation endpoint and to determine whether changes are needed. The type and frequency of monitoring is determined on a site-specific and building-specific basis, taking into account applicable environmental data and building operating conditions. Monitoring is an interim measure required to evaluate exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

Mitigate: Mitigation is needed to minimize current or potential exposures associated with soil vapor intrusion. The most common mitigation methods are sealing preferential pathways in conjunction with installing a sub-slab depressurization system, and changing the pressurization of the building in conjunction with monitoring. The type, or combination of types, of mitigation is determined on a building-specific basis, taking into account building construction and operating conditions. Mitigation is an interim measure implemented to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

ADDITIONAL PCE MATRIX NOTES

This matrix provides guidance on actions that should be taken to address current and potential exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. To use the matrix accurately as a tool in the decision-making process, the following must be noted:

- [1] The matrix is generic. As such, it may be necessary to modify recommended actions to accommodate building-specific conditions (e.g., dirt floor in basement, crawl spaces, etc.) and/or site-specific conditions (e.g., proximity of building to identified subsurface contamination) for the protection of public health. Additionally, actions more conservative than those specified within the matrix may be implemented at any time. More conservative actions are often cost-based (e.g., the cost of additional sampling versus the cost of mitigation) rather than health-based.
- [2] Actions provided in the matrix are specific to addressing human exposures. Implementation of these actions does not preclude the need to investigate possible sources of vapor contamination, nor does it preclude the need to remediate contaminated soil vapors or the source of soil vapor contamination.
- [3] Extreme care should be taken during all aspects of sample collection to ensure that high quality data are obtained. Since the data are being used in the decision-making process, the laboratory analyzing the environmental samples must have current Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certification for the appropriate analyte and environmental matrix combinations. Furthermore, samples must be analyzed by methods that can achieve a minimum reporting limit of 3 micrograms PCE per cubic meter.
- [4] Sub-slab vapor and indoor air samples (basement and lowest occupied living space) are typically collected during the heating season since soil vapor intrusion is more likely to occur when a building's heating system is in operation and air is being drawn into the building. If samples are collected during other times of the year, it may be necessary to resample during the heating season to evaluate exposures accurately.
- [5] When current exposures are attributed to sources other than vapor intrusion, the agencies must be provided documentation (e.g., applicable environmental data, completed indoor air sampling questionnaire, digital photographs, etc.) to support a proposed action other than that provided in the matrix box and to support agency assessment and follow-up.