

Chris Voss, Records Access Officer
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
1 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
DEP.PublicRecords@state.ma.us

February 18, 2016

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Officer Voss,

According to February 12, 2016 Inside EPA article by Dave Reynolds entitled Massachusetts Revisits TCE Sites To Protect Against Birth Defects Risk, email correspondence and referenced Advisory Committee video records (noted below), during a recent Jan. 28 public meeting, representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) said the agency is planning to revisit approximately 200 sites contaminated with TCE to determine whether indoor air poses a risk of cardiac birth defects through vapor intrusion, which occurs when below ground pollution rises into indoor air. MDEP has been "trying to prioritize sites that have closed under the old rules," that may have levels of TCE that pose a risk of cardiac birth defects, officials told the meeting of agency advisors. "This is a technical assistance, public health effort, not an enforcement effort, not a question of whether or not people met the standard at the time."

I am writing to request a list of the names and addresses of the referenced approximately 200 sites to assure that this information is made immediately available to the public, particularly women of child-bearing age who may wish to know of POTENTIAL TCE sites of concern where they live and work. As noted in public comments by MDEP, some of these sites have been closed for a very long time and current residents, owners and workers may not be aware of the former site history. To save resources, I request that this list be provided in an electronic format.

Alternatively and preferably, this information would be made immediately available to the public on the MDEP website so that this information may be presented in context and with supporting explanation by the Department in conjunction with public health agencies. If this is accomplished within 30 days, we agree to withdraw this open records request.

As the woman at the February Advisory Board meeting commented, "I cannot help thinking about Flint Michigan...and thinking about kids who may be gestating in TCE vapors." It is in this spirit that today's request is made.

Sincerely,

Laura Olah, Executive Director
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