



Current and Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sampling the former dry cleaner facility and surrounding properties for chemicals that may enter buildings in vapor form. In the coming months, EPA will collect and analyze samples of indoor air, soil, gas that is in the soil, and groundwater at the former San Francisco Cleaners site in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This information will help EPA determine if chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) from the drycleaning operation is posing a risk to people's health.



EPA will sample within a 200-foot radius of the site, covering properties such as schools, businesses, lodging facilities, religious institutions, residential homes, and roads. EPA will obtain access agreements from property owners and tenants before conducting any sampling. Depending on the results of this assessment, EPA may expand the study area to include additional properties.

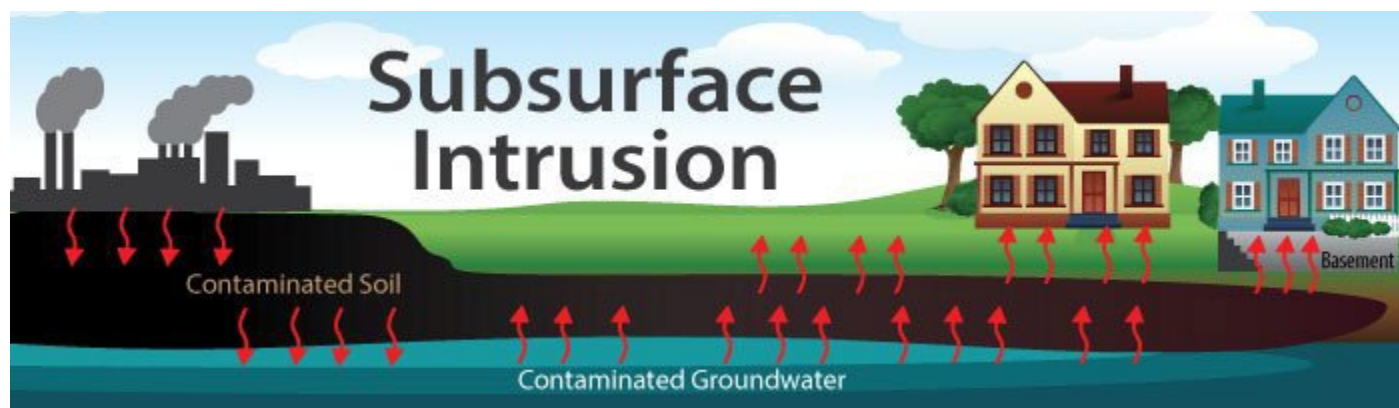


Figure above illustrates a conceptual model of Subsurface Intrusion, which is a migration of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from unsaturated zone or shallow groundwater into overlying structures through sumps, and/or cracks. The hazardous substances are released from a facility, contaminates the subsurface soil and groundwater, and then migrates into buildings.

Past Activities

In May 2022, EPA collected 16 soil gas, soil, and groundwater samples from the former San Francisco Cleaners site, which confirmed that there was hazardous waste present at the site. The sampling results indicated elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene in soil gas and groundwater samples.

Site Background

The Former San Francisco Cleaners site, located in 1470 Avenida Ashford is in a mixed residential and commercial urban area in a northern portion of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The site is a former laundry and dry-cleaning facility that operated from the 1950s to 2005. The facility historically used tetrachloroethylene (PCE or PERC), a nonflammable, liquid solvent widely used in dry cleaning, wood processing, fabric manufacturing, and metal degreasing. The former building was demolished, and the property is now used as a parking lot for the neighboring Ashford Gallery Shopping Center.

EPA Contact Information

Brenda Reyes*Community Involvement Coordinator*

202-834-1290

reyes.brenda@epa.gov**James Song***Site Assessment Manager*

212-637-4314

song.james@epa.gov

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