

MARCH 2023



Current and Upcoming Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sampling the 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 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.

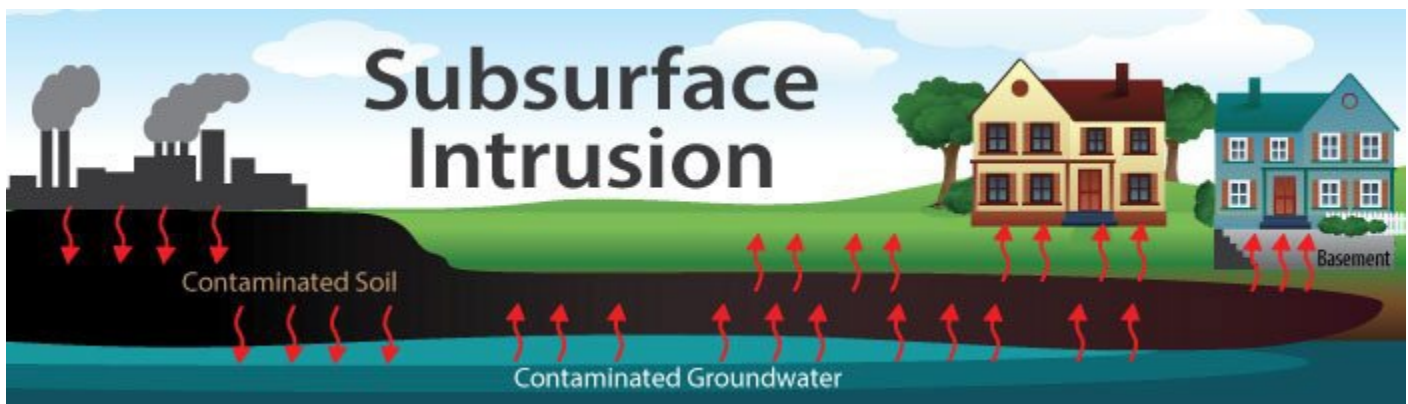


Figure above illustrates a conceptual model of Subsurface Intrusion, which is a migration of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from unsaturated zone or shallow groundwater into overlying structures through sumps, and/or cracks. The hazardous substances are released from a facility, contaminates 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 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 San Francisco Cleaners site, located at 1702 Calle Loiza is in a mixed residential and commercial urban area in a northern portion of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The site is an active dry-cleaning facility that has been operating since 1971 under the following names: Loiza Cleaners, Inc., Albano One-Hour Martinizing, Albano Cleaners, J.A.B. Cleaners, Inc., and San Francisco Cleaners.

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