

Test Will Help EPA Remove Gas From Beneath Village

Hartford Area Hydrocarbon Plume Site
Hartford, Illinois

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For more information

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You may call the EPA's Chicago regional office toll-free at 800-621-8431, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit:

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/hartford/index.htm

To see copies of documents related to the site, visit the information repository at:

Hartford Public Library
143 W. Hawthorne St.



The shaded area on this map shows where EPA will conduct testing to clean up gasoline that is trapped underground.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to conduct a test that will help the Agency learn the best way to remove trapped gasoline from beneath a portion of Hartford. The test is called a “focused pumping” test. It will be done near the 300 block of North Olive Avenue, referred to as Area A (see map, above).

Groundwater in Hartford moves up and down – more shallow or more deep – depending on things such as rain, drought or the Mississippi River level. There is gasoline trapped below the groundwater, and the changing water level makes it difficult to clean up the gasoline.

By using “focused pumping,” U.S. EPA can pump a significant amount of groundwater out of the ground when water levels are naturally low. That causes the water level around the well to drop further, and the gasoline rises up through the soil to take its place.

The idea is to move the groundwater out of the way so workers can then pump the gasoline out of the ground. If the water is not moved out of the way, the gasoline remains trapped and remains an environmental and public health problem.

What to expect during and after the testing

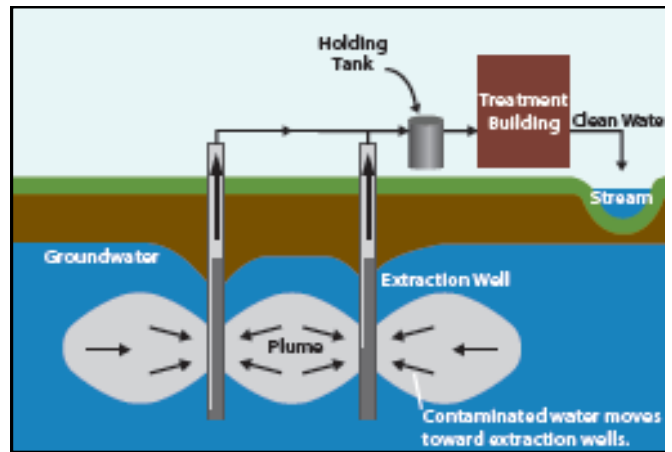
Removing as much gasoline as possible from beneath Hartford will protect indoor air, help clean the groundwater and reduce the level of disruption in the village. If successful, this test will show U.S. EPA the best way to remove more of the trapped gasoline.

Local residents may have already seen activity in Area A, since some work has begun. They will see additional workers and equipment within Area A as the project begins. U.S. EPA expects the project to last at least six weeks. It could take longer depending on results.

Disposing of groundwater and gas

Pumped groundwater will be treated using a temporary treatment system made up of a series of tanks, filters and specialized material to remove the gasoline. The treatment system will be above ground, but all the equipment will be behind a privacy fence.

Once the groundwater has passed through the treatment system it will be safe for discharge into the Hartford sewer system and further treated at the Wood River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Treated water samples will be collected and analyzed at the beginning of the test and weekly during the test to ensure that the water is safe prior to discharge into the sewers.



This is an example of wells that will remove groundwater and gasoline from beneath Hartford. There will be two separate wells, one to pump and collect groundwater and the other to pump and collect gasoline. There will also be a treatment system connected to the wells, as shown.

Gasoline will be recovered in a separate well and transferred directly to a set of storage tanks specifically designed to safely hold it. As the tanks are filled, gasoline will be periodically transferred to a tanker truck and transported to a recycling facility for reuse.

Safety precautions being made

U.S. EPA is taking several precautions to ensure the test is safe. Apex Oil, the contractor responsible for the test and cleaning up the gasoline, has obtained a water permit for the treatment system and an air permit for any emissions. Air samples will be collected to ensure emissions are safe.

The Illinois State Fire Marshall and Village of Hartford Fire Marshall will inspect the tanks and treatment system to ensure they are operating safely.

Village officials have reviewed and approved the plan to treat the water and discharge it into the sewers.

The current soil vapor extraction system beneath the village will continue to operate and protect indoor air from possible vapor intrusion.



Some wells like this one have already been installed in Area A, where the test pumping will be done.