

Air Force Real Property Agency

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Soil Vapor Intrusion and Subslab Sampling

WHAT IS SOIL VAPOR INTRUSION?

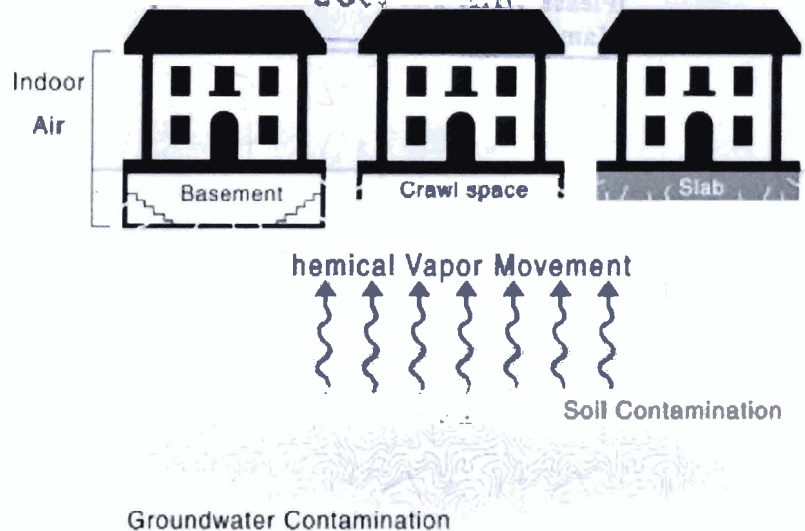
Soil vapor intrusion is a process by which chemicals migrate from a contaminated source in the soil and groundwater into the indoor air of buildings. Vapors can enter a building through openings in the foundation including cracks in slabs or basement floors and walls.

HOW DOES SUBSLAB SAMPLING WORK?

Before any sampling occurs, potential sampling sites are inspected and chosen to ensure a proper representative air sample can be taken with minimal disruption for the building's occupants. To avoid inconveniencing the building's occupants, a sample may be taken from beneath a closet rather than from beneath an office.

Once the sampling locations have been identified, small holes are drilled through the concrete foundation of the building into the soil below. Small canisters will be connected to each hole to collect air samples over a 24-hour period. The drilled holes will be repaired upon completion of the sampling.

The collected samples are analyzed to see if detected chemicals are escaping into the air at acceptable levels.



*A Conceptual Model of Vapor Intrusion
(Courtesy of the New York State Department of Health)*

VAPOR INTRUSION SAMPLING FOR VAPOR INTRUSION AT THE FORMER PLATTSBURGH AFB

The Air Force Real Property Agency will conduct subslab sampling at selected buildings on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base in late November 2006.

The Air Force previously studied the potential for soil vapor intrusion into buildings on the base and concluded in 2001 that there was no need for further action. While there are no indications of a change to this situation, the Air Force will conduct subslab sampling to verify the building is not being affected by vapor intrusion.

For more information, please call Dave Farnsworth at (518) 563-2871 ext. 15.

ABOUT AFRPA

The Air Force Real Property Agency oversees the environmental cleanup activities at former Air Force bases throughout the United States. Our goal is to complete cleanup actions needed to protect human health and the environment and to transfer property for reuse. AFRPA also plays a key role in property reuse/privatization and serves as the Air Force liaison supporting interim property leases.

For more information, please call our public information line at 703-696-5500 or visit us at www.afrrpa.hq.af.mil.