



UPDATE
Emerson Power Transmission Facility - Ithaca, New York
January 2008

This communication is to update you on the results of ambient air monitoring conducted in November 2007 in the South Hill community and the near-term actions that Emerson Power Transmission (EPT) proposes to undertake in the community.

As you may be aware, since the fall of 2004, EPT has been conducting testing to evaluate the potential for vapors to migrate in the subsurface and enter structures. The testing involves collecting concurrent air samples from the first floor, basement, and beneath the concrete slab of the basement, if present, in the structure. An ambient air sample also is collected at an outside location in the vicinity of the structure. The air samples have been analyzed by an independent analytical laboratory for the list of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) specified in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. This list includes VOCs of concern in groundwater at the EPT site as well as other VOCs not related to this study.

In November 2007, indoor air testing was conducted in a number of structures and concurrent ambient air samples were collected in the vicinity of the structures. The results of that sampling were unexpected; trichloroethylene (TCE) and certain other VOCs were detected at elevated concentrations in the ambient air samples above what EPT has previously found. This is the first time TCE has been detected at these concentrations in ambient air samples since EPT began testing for ambient air in the fall of 2004.

EPT understands, however, that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has conducted ambient air sampling at different locations in the South Hill community monthly since February 2007 as part of an ongoing study and that TCE has either not been detected or detected at a very low concentration. Reportedly, in November 2007, the NYSDEC collected ambient air samples during the same period as EPT and the results were non-detect for TCE. (For more information on the temporal study you should contact the NYSDEC).

EPT has informed the NYSDEC and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) of the November 2007 sampling results. In response to the findings, EPT has agreed to conduct the following actions:

- Conduct immediate follow up sampling in structures where elevated VOCs were measured and also collect ambient air samples outside the structure.
- Provide a work plan to assess the actual mass emission rates of target compounds from vent stacks of selected mitigation systems and evaluate the potential for air impacts from the operation of mitigation systems.
- Provide a work plan to assess the potential for offsite sources of VOCs to the South Hill community.
- Provide a work plan to evaluate air quality in selected manholes along Turner Place and East Spencer Street.
- Mitigate structures in accordance with EPT's March 2006 voluntary offer.

We believe the above actions will provide the information necessary for further decision-making, and we will update the community and state once the follow up sampling results are available.

EPT is committed to protecting public health in the South Hill community. Our goal is to conduct the above actions expeditiously in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH. EPT still has a toll-free number available (1-866-265-0634) for any residents with questions about this site investigation.