

SLC VHA TCE Plume Web Site FAQs:

1. I live in/near the estimated boundary of the Superfund site, what does that mean?

Sites listed on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund, National Priorities List (NPL) are the nation's highest priority for hazardous waste cleanup. Living, working, or going to school near a superfund site may have negative health effects however, living near a Superfund site does not necessarily mean that residential property is contaminated. When a Superfund site is discovered, preliminary tests may be taken to determine if additional sampling is needed, including potential sampling of residential property. You may receive requests for permission to take samples on your property.

2. Is tap water safe to drink?

Deep groundwater is not being used as a potable water source in the plume site area and therefore should not pose a risk. Homes, schools, and businesses in the plume site are connected to a municipal drinking water supply source. There are no known private groundwater wells used for potable purposes within the site. If you have a water supply well on your property and are located in the plume site area, please notify the CERLA program manager (contact information listed above).

3. Can I eat vegetables from my garden?

Consumption of homegrown produce that has been irrigated with seep/spring water would not result in unacceptable risks, because accumulation of plume site contaminants into homegrown produce is unlikely.

4. What are the health concerns related to PCE exposure?

Long-term exposure (longer than one year) to low levels of PCE may cause changes in mood, memory, attention, reaction time, and vision. Animal studies have shown PCE exposure can cause cancers of the liver, kidney, and blood system. EPA considers PCE likely to cause cancer in humans.

5. What is being done to address the PCE and protect my health and that of my family?

Monitoring of seeps and springs will continue as part of the comprehensive response to the groundwater contamination at the Superfund Site. An evaluation of cleanup options to treat the contaminated groundwater and the seeps and springs is the next phase. The public will have the opportunity to take part in the remedy selection process by attending public meetings and commenting on the proposed plan for the site.

6. What impact does this have on my property value?

Property values can be affected by several environmental factors, including perceived health risks, impacts on safe drinking water and air pollution. Factors that may reduce the impact on property values include distance from the site and the presence of a geographic buffer, such as a hill, railroad, river, forest, or divided highway. A good resource for property value information is a local government agency-such as your local taxing authority or planning commission-or a local real estate professional. They are experienced in appraising property values and determining the effect of contamination on property values.