



Camp Stanley Storage Activity Groundwater Contamination – Chloroform FACT SHEET

No. 11 – December 2002

Low levels of Chloroform have been found in some of the drinking water wells sampled as part of the Camp Stanley Storage Activity (CSSA) off-post sampling program. The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform area residents about the chemical nature, uses and action levels for Chloroform.

Background/Mission

CSSA is a U.S. Army post located in Bexar County, approximately 19 miles northwest of downtown San Antonio, Texas. Its mission is the receipt, storage, and issuance of ordnance materiel as well as quality assurance testing and maintenance of military weapons and ammunition. Because of its ordnance mission, CSSA is a restricted-access facility.

Chloroform

There is no health risk from Chloroform at or around CSSA. Only low levels of Chloroform have been detected in groundwater sampled by CSSA. The highest concentration of Chloroform detected in the CSSA proximity was 7.9 parts per billion (ppb), in September 2001 and the EPA maximum contaminant limit (MCL) for chloroform is 80 ppb.

Chloroform, also known as trichloromethane, is a colorless liquid with a sweet odor. We come into contact with chloroform often in our daily lives. It has many uses, and is present in common household products, including lacquers, floor polishes, adhesives, and disinfectants. It is also used for dry cleaning, developing pictures, in fire extinguishers and as a solvent in the purification of antibiotics, vitamins, and flavors. In addition, chloroform can easily be produced during the chlorination of drinking water and is a common drinking water contaminant.

EPA Guidance

Chloroform is classified as a “possible human carcinogen” based on the results of animal studies. However, there is no direct evidence linking chloroform alone to cancer development in humans. The EPA regulates Chloroform as one of a group of compounds known as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The TTHM group consists of Bromoform, Bromodichloro methane, Chloroform and Dibromochloromethane. According to the EPA, concentrations of TTHM below 80 ppb are considered safe for drinking water. Some people who drink water containing TTHM in excess of EPA's standard over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

CSSA Sampling and Analysis

In the most recent round of sampling in September 2002, the highest detection of chloroform was 1.32 ppb. This translates to only four molecules of chloroform for every three billion molecules of water. At this extremely low level, EPA studies

indicate there is absolutely no risk to human health. Most off-post wells consistently show no detections of Chloroform at all.

Chloroform will continue to be monitored by CSSA as a chemical of concern. Monitoring will be performed on a quarterly basis, both on- and off-post, for the foreseeable future.

Additional Information

More information regarding chloroform can be found at the following web sites:

www.epa.gov/safewater

www.atsdr.cdc.gov

www.nsc.org/library/chemical/chlorofo.htm

Public Comment

CSSA will distribute additional fact sheets to inform the public about different aspects of its environmental program. The public is welcome to comment on this fact sheet and environmental activities at CSSA by writing to:

Commander, Camp Stanley Storage Activity
25800 Ralph Fair Road
Boerne, Texas 78015-4800

You may also comment by calling:

- CSSA Commander, Lt. Col. Jason D. Shirley, at (210) 295-7416;
- EPA Regional Program Manager, Mr. Greg Lyssy, at (214) 665-8317; or
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District Public Affairs Office, Ms. Anita Horky, at (817) 978-3395
- San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Environmental Health & Wellness Center at (210) 434-0077