

Stacy's Cleaners

MCP COMPLIANCE PROJECT

Site Location: East Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Client: Eugene Stacy
Date: 2007– 2008

In the Spring of 2002, a plume of dissolved tetrachloroethene (PCE), a commonly used dry cleaning solvent, was detected in the soil and groundwater of a property adjacent to a family owned dry cleaner in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Subsequent investigations revealed that high concentrations of solvent existed in the groundwater beneath the cleaners as well, and that the business was indeed the source of the contamination. This meant that the cleaners was not only responsible for the pollution on the abutting property, but also that its own workers could be at risk of inhaling noxious vapors rising from the basement.

The first environmental professional retained by the client recommended a long, expensive, and ineffective chemical injection process to remove the chlorinated solvents from the soil. After four years of injecting oxidizing chemicals into groundwater wells, it was clear that the remediation process was unsuccessful. O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) took a different approach when hired in 2007. Kevin O'Reilly looked at site conditions from a risk perspective before proposing any remedial actions. By focusing on how to contain specific risks under MCP guidelines, OTO dramatically reduced the scope of the project, and delivered a creative and cost-effective solution.

OTO immediately ceased groundwater remediation and conducted a round of indoor air and sub slab soil gas tests. OTO discovered that concentrations of PCE in indoor air on the first floor, where dry cleaning operations took place, were significantly higher than in the basement, where no dry cleaning operations took place. Thus, OTO concluded that the compounds detected in the indoor air samples were attributable to the normal operation of the building as a dry cleaning facility - not to the presence of vapor migration from contaminated groundwater beneath the foundation. A Method 3 Risk Characterization demonstrated that conditions posed No Significant Risk to human health, safety, public welfare, and the environment, and a Response Action Outcome (RAO) was filed in the Spring of 2008. By thinking creatively and in terms of legal guidelines, OTO eliminated the need for any remedial action. What would have taken the previous consultant years and hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete, OTO resolved in a matter of months and for a fraction of the cost.