



NEWS RELEASE

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Phone: 217/782-3397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2009

CONTACT: Maggie Carson
217/725-0589

Illinois EPA gives notice to Rockford public drinking water supply of required Right to Know actions

Agency confirms TCE contamination and requires customers to be notified

Springfield, IL – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has notified the Rockford public water supply, by certified mail, that there has been a confirmed detection of groundwater contamination that poses a threat of exposure to the public above the Class I groundwater quality standards.

Trichloroethylene (TCE) has been detected and confirmed in Rockford's raw (source) and finished (distributed) drinking water, and the TCE exceeds 2.5 parts per billion (ppb). This level does not yet exceed the Class I groundwater quality standard for TCE of 5.0 ppb that both federal and State law allows in drinking water. However, the Right to Know provision of the Environmental Protection Act requires that the public be notified even before this Class I groundwater quality standard is exceeded in their drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Act requires the water supply provide notification to its customers of this contamination by mail, email, post card, text message or telephone, within five business days of official receipt of the Illinois EPA's notice. The public drinking water supply must provide the Illinois EPA with written proof of the notifications within seven calendar days after they are sent.

The Illinois EPA will post this press release and other appropriate notifications on its web site at: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/drinking-water-watch/pws-well-contamination/index.html>

Some people who ingest water contaminated with TCE over long periods of time can experience adverse health effects. The factsheet containing complete health information for PCE can be found on U.S. EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/basicinformation/trichloroethylene.html>. This notification is required under Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act [415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)].

###