



Maine DEP's Dry Cleaner Initiative

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

Goals of the Dry Cleaner Initiative (DCI)

- Identify current or former dry cleaners potentially posing a risk to public health;
- Measure actual risk;
- Mitigate risk when found

Two (2) main contamination issues at former dry cleaner sites are:

- Indoor air problems caused by vapor intrusion; and
- Groundwater contamination impacting water supply wells.



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Creation of Dry Cleaner List-2004

- Created an inventory of former dry cleaning facilities in 2004 using:
 - RCRA database;
 - Hazardous Waste Manifests;
 - DEP Air Quality database;
 - Maine Registers (directories);
 - Old phone books;
 - GIS; and
 - Sanborn Maps (Fire Insurance)

As of 2014:

- Identified 213 dry cleaner locations across the state:
- 192 former dry cleaners; and
- 21 active dry cleaners



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The Future of Dry Cleaning Sites in Maine

- All dry cleaners that have used hazardous chemicals will need to be assessed:
 - RCRA Program (active facilities);
 - Dry Cleaner Initiative/Uncontrolled Sites Program;
 - Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP)



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Priority Ranking System

Which sites posed the most potential risk?

- Human Health
- Environment

Site Investigation Priority Ranked by:

- Distance to off-site receptor(s)
- PCE use (known vs unknown)-Based on manifests
- Documented Spills
- Presence of preferential pathway (sewer, water, utility)
- Co-located apartment or business



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Dry Cleaner Investigations

- Preliminary investigations have been conducted at **68** of the **213** dry cleaner sites on the list:
 - Groundwater and/or soil contamination has been remediated at **31** sites;
 - Currently working on several other sites that will likely need some level of remediation.



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Assessments

2004-2012- Focused on investigating several sites with the most potential to be a risk; conducted pilot studies at two (2) former dry cleaner sites.

Starting in 2013:

On a biennial basis:

- Investigate ten (10) former dry cleaner sites with known PCE use and remediate/mitigate the sites that have contamination and impacted receptors;
- VI screening at ten (10) former dry cleaner sites with unknown PCE use to determine if a Phase I/II is warranted.



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2015 DCI Planned Workload

- Eight (8) Phase I ESA's are planned; final reports due early February 2015;
- Ten (10) Phase II ESA's to be completed in October and November of 2015, during the heating season.
- Ten (10) VI screenings at sites with unknown PCE use are planned for May and June 2015;



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Lessons Learned

- **Beal's Linen:** There are bad sites out there that are not even on our radar yet;
- **Brownfields:** A passive system to intercept vapors in the utility corridor was a cheap method to stop exposures;
- **Algars:** a centralized mitigation system can address multiple exposed buildings for less money;
- **Alexon's:** EPA response can be really, really expensive;
- **Millinocket:** If an RP won't cooperate, call in EPA response;
- **Many:** VI mitigation systems used for radon are relatively cheap and effective;
- **DCI/VRAP:** Using Phase I / Phase II ESA approach sparks clean-ups through the voluntary program.



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