

# Update on EPA's Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Work Group Activities



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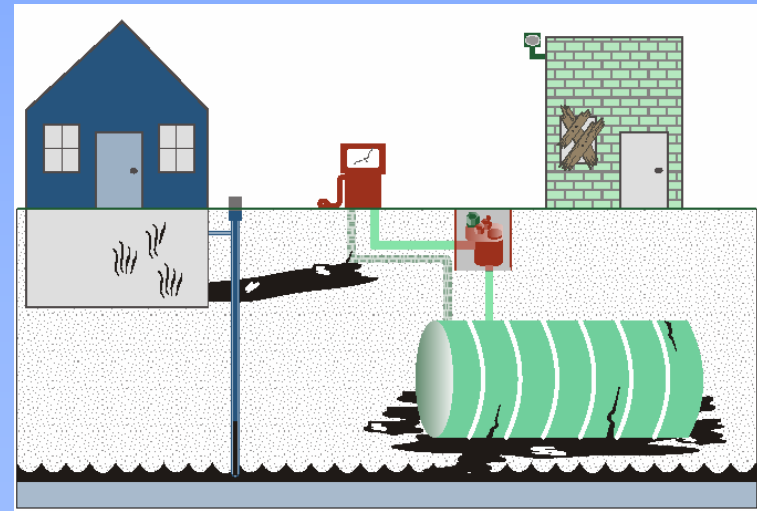
# Background

- In November 2002, EPA released *Draft Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air Pathway from Groundwater and Soils* as a tool to help the user conduct a screening evaluation during site assessment activities.
- The guidance outlines a three-tiered approach to evaluating the pathway – does a complete pathway exist, and is there an unacceptable risk to human health?



# Background (cont.)

- The November 2002 guidance document contains a recommendation that it not be used for UST sites (RCRA Subtitle I).
- Guidance directs states to continue to use a risk-based decision making approach, such as that outlined in OSWER directive 9610.17, *Use of Risk-based Decision Making in UST Corrective Programs*
- EPA also decided to further study petroleum and petroleum products in the subsurface...



# Initial Steps

- In February 2003, the American Petroleum Institute (API) sent comments to EPA outlining issues that the November 2002 guidance doesn't address.
- In May/June 2003, OUST conducted a series of interviews with states, industry, and EPA staff to investigate the extent of vapor intrusion concerns, perceived need for additional guidance, and interest in forming a work group.



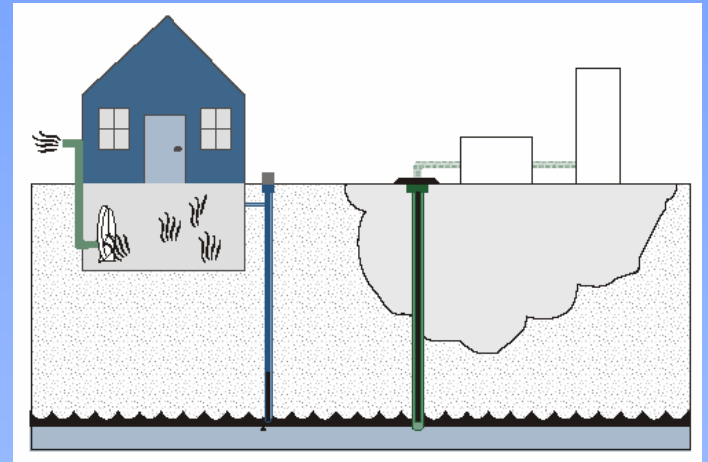
# Work Group Activities

- EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) formed the petroleum vapor intrusion work group in September 2003; the first conference call was conducted in October 2003.
- Activities have included discussions of vapor intrusion issues, compiling of applicable studies/data available, and reviewing that information. A web site (Quick Place) was developed to house the inventory of studies and data.



# Current Issues

- There are varying opinions among work group members and states as to what would be acceptable attenuation factors to use in the J&E model at petroleum sites.
- There are varying opinions among state and Federal staff as to whether modeling or site specific sampling should be used at vapor intrusion sites (or a combination of both).



# Current Issues (cont.)

- EPA is reviewing information concerning the frequency of occurrence of petroleum vapor intrusion, the existence of state guidance that covers vapor intrusion, and current state reliance on EPA guidance.
- There are just not enough available data, when one considers the various scenarios that need to be evaluated, to enable EPA to develop national guidance at this point.



# Next Steps

- Continue to compile and analyze data – there are many state-specific studies, but the data are derived from few sampling points.
- Group is interested in working with other work groups (AEHS, ITRC, and others) to compare results and conclusions.

