

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 5, 2008

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Department of Environmental Protection

Southeast Regional Office

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**DEP TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON TCE EMISSION  
REDUCTION EFFORTS**

**NORRISTOWN** -- The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 26, in Collegetown to update residents on efforts to reduce airborne trichloroethylene (TCE) levels in that area of Montgomery County.

The meeting will be held at the Perkiomen Valley Middle School East auditorium, 100 Kagey Road.

“Since releasing our January 2007 air monitoring report, our agency has worked closely with Accellent and Superior Tube to develop emission reduction strategies that would effectively reduce TCE emissions by these narrow tube manufacturers,” said DEP Regional Director Joseph A. Feola. “The department has been, and will continue to be, fully engaged in this effort, and will use this opportunity to update the community on the significant emission reductions that have been achieved to date.”

Recent data from the stationary air monitor in Evansburg State Park show levels of airborne TCE are diminishing, with many days registering no measurable levels of TCE in the air. That trend is expected to continue at both the existing and planned monitoring stations given the companies’ voluntary efforts to reduce emissions.

Superior Tube completed reformulation and degreaser removal projects that are expected to reduce TCE emissions by more than 50 percent this year. On Feb. 13, the company

announced it is taking steps to eliminate the use of TCE from its manufacturing process completely.

The company is seeking approval from DEP to replace TCE with an alternative approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—n-propyl bromide, or nPB. Unlike TCE, nPB is not considered an air toxic.

Accellent, meanwhile, is operating the first of two carbon absorber units to control TCE emissions from the company's large degreasers. Accellent had the first unit operating on Oct. 2 and received the second unit on Feb. 8. This second unit is being installed now and should be operational later this month.

While the manufacturer for the carbon absorber equipment guarantees an overall emission reduction of 35 percent, DEP believes this is a very conservative estimate. Emission reductions of 90 percent or greater usually result from this type of installation.

Complete progress reports and other related information have been posted on DEP's Southeast regional Web page since a public meeting in February 2007. DEP created this web-based resource so area residents and local officials could obtain news and background information about Collegeville-area air monitoring and TCE emission reduction efforts.

The site can be accessed at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Collegeville.

A recent addition to the Web page, "Additional Monitoring Under EPA Grant," provides a link to DEP's December 2007 work plan for additional monitoring efforts. The agency was awarded a \$269,000 grant by EPA to expand its air monitoring efforts for TCE and other compounds in the Collegeville area.

This community-wide monitoring project will develop baseline references of airborne TCE concentrations to support exposure estimates. The project will track long-term

measurements of air toxics following the already implemented emission reduction strategy in the area.

Residents who have questions or concerns prior to the meeting may contact DEP Community Relations Coordinator Lynda Rebarchak at 484-250-5820, or by email at [lrrebarchak@state.pa.us](mailto:lrrebarchak@state.pa.us).

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