United States Environmental Protection Agency

Amphenol Investigation Shows Safe Outdoor Air Levels

Former Franklin Power Products/Amphenol Corp.
Franklin, Indiana August 2018

Analysis of outdoor air samples collected at the former Amphenol site fence line showed that levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were either too low to be measured by a laboratory or they were below the lowest EPA health-based screening levels for residential exposure. The samples, taken continuously over 8 hours on July 26, indicated releases from the groundwater recovery system air stripper do not contribute to any outdoor air issues in Franklin. The air stripper is designed to clean groundwater and depress the water table. "Groundwater" is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water.

Screening levels, or SLs, are risk-based concentrations derived from EPA scientific data. Exposures at SL concentrations are considered by EPA to protect people's health even when they occur over a lifetime. This includes health-sensitive groups of people like children and pregnant women.

The groundwater treatment emissions pipe was also sampled over an 8-hour period (*Figure 1, P. 2*). The sample port on the pipe was several feet below its top to avoid dilution by outside air. Sample results show the treatment system emits around 8 pounds of VOCs per year. To put this in perspective, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management would issue an air permit for this system only if the air emissions reached at least 2,000 pounds per year.

While measurable levels of VOCs were identified at the pipe vent, those VOCs were immediately diluted by outside air to the point that extremely low levels were measured at the site perimeter. The perimeter sampling points were between 4- and 6-feet high, the height where most people would breathe. (*Figure 2*).

On Aug. 3, Amphenol Corp. installed a vapor carbon filter system on the emissions pipe in response to community concerns about releases from the site. The filter is designed to eliminate all emissions (*Figure 3*).

Next steps

- EPA will require a second round of outdoor air sampling (with the filter detached) to provide even more data about the outdoor air conditions at the site. The carbon filter system and indoor air in the on-site building will also be tested at that time.
- For the neighborhood south of and downgradient of the site, EPA will require Amphenol to investigate a VOC vapor intrusion pathway by sampling gas in soil, sewers, and manholes, and, if indicated by the pathway investigation, testing below foundations and within homes.

Please see the EPA website (at left) for the air sample data table and figure.

For more information

For questions, comments or more information on the Amphenol investigation, contact these EPA team members:

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EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You may see site-related documents at EPA's Regional office, 7th Floor Records Center, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

or visit
https://www.epa.gov/in/amphenolfranklin-power-products-franklin-ind#documents

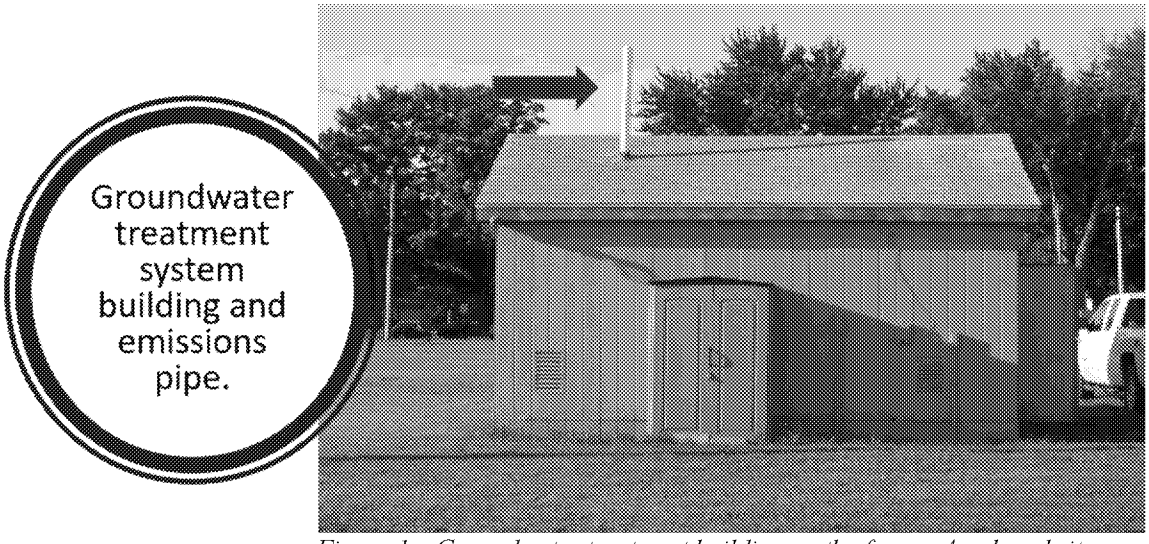

Figure 1 – Groundwater treatment building on the former Amphenol site.

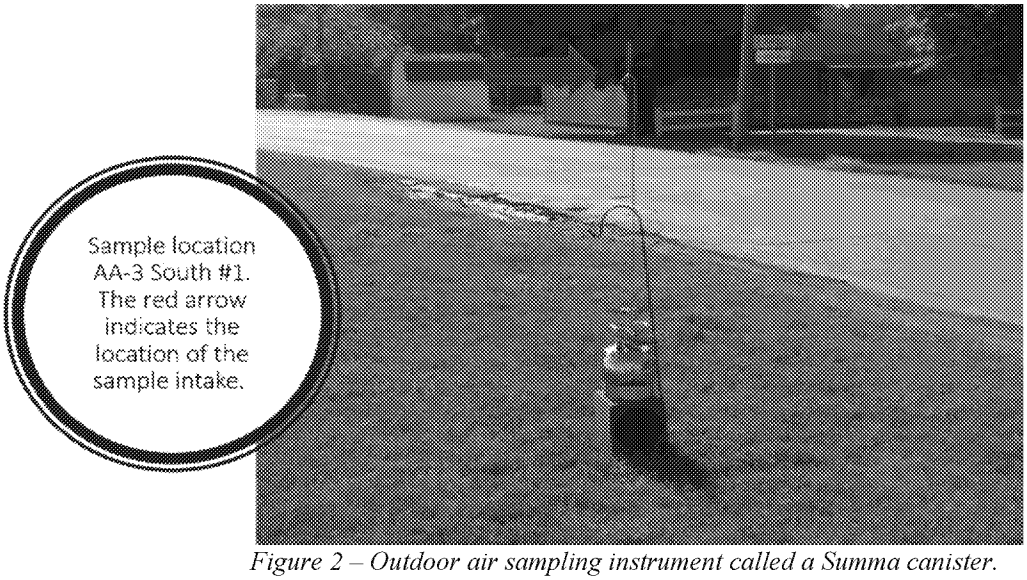

Figure 2 – Outdoor air sampling instrument called a Summa canister.

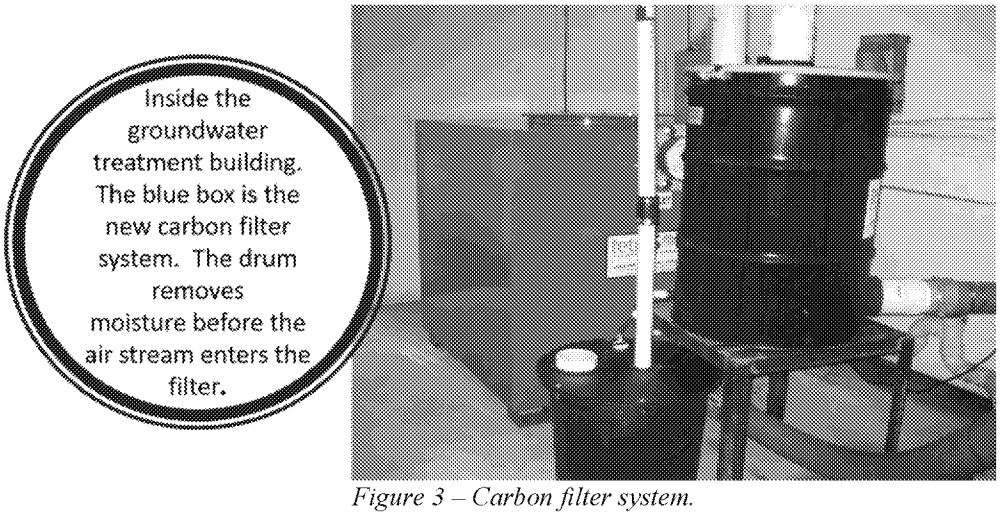

Figure 3 – Carbon filter system.