

April 3, 2023

sent by email

The Honorable Mayor Miles Hewitt
Peru City Hall
35 S. Broadway
Peru, IN 46970

Subject: Former Square D site environmental issue

Mayor Hewitt,

Schneider Electric remains committed to 1) expediently delineating and addressing the environmental issues originating at our property, 2) continuously communicating updated information to the City, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and other stakeholders, and 3) diligently focusing on delineating and mitigating potential human and environmental exposure pathways. Below, please find additional information on this topic.

- Potential Pathways for Human Exposure: As noted in IDEM's fact sheet¹ for this project, a person can be exposed to Trichloroethene (TCE) by 1) touching soil, 2) drinking water or 3) breathing air impacted with TCE. Regarding the first pathway, IDEM notes that, "*Soil in the surrounding residential communities is safe for all activities, including gardening.*" Regarding the second pathway, IDEM notes that, "*Water is supplied to the surrounding residential communities by the City of Peru, therefore no drinking water is impacted.*" Regarding the third pathway, Schneider Electric had previously determined that up to 12 residential dwellings were at potential risk of vapors entering a structure. Schneider Electric has purchased 10 of those homes out of an abundance of caution to support remediation, while the remaining two homes were sampled and tested below IDEM published levels (note: the results of the residential sampling have been communicated to the homeowners at the time of sampling as well as IDEM). Therefore, all known potential pathways of exposure in the residential neighborhood have been removed and/or evaluated. As we continue collecting information, if new data suggests a new potential pathway, Schneider Electric will act to mitigate it appropriately.

¹ IDEM Fact Sheet for Square D - [factsheet_olq_si_squared_schneider_elect.pdf \(in.gov\)](#)

- Short-Term Road Closures: Due to concerns caused by short term road closures during the week of March 20 to allow for our geophysical investigations (traffic vibrations would interfere with those investigations), we are supplementing our communications procedures to better inform nearby residents about potential future road closures. Unfortunately, these investigation activities cannot be eliminated; however, we will continue to consider ways to supplement our outreach prior to future potential closures.

- Planning future activities: IDEM has been informed of our upcoming investigation and remediation activities and tentative scheduling, which include the following (subject to weather and other potential delays):
 - Beginning April 3: Demolition of residential home at 242 E 9th St and 232 N Water St (timeline accelerated due to faster utility disconnections). All purchased residences will be demolished (to allow for environmental monitoring and remediation) as permitting, utility disconnections and site preparation are completed over the coming months.

 - Ongoing through April 7: Installation of an offsite soil vapor extraction system (SVE) on the adjacent residential properties to begin to remediate those properties. Activation of the SVE system will occur at a future date after the treatment unit is procured. Bedrock investigations will also continue onsite and on the recently purchased residential properties.

 - By April 7: Submission of Site Investigation Report Addendum #2 to IDEM that will describe the results of recent field investigations (i.e., since our August 2022 SIR Addendum #1 through approximately end of February 2023).

 - Additional investigations, remediation, and other actions will be undertaken based on the results of recent activities as well as those described above.

Additional activities not scheduled at this time may occur if deemed necessary. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Duane Wanty
Director Environmental Affairs

cc: Peru City Council

Patricia Russell	Tom Gustin
Steve Anderson	Mark Ramsey
Peter Sahaidachny	Kathleen Plohow
Betsy Edwards-Wolfe	

State Legislators

Representative Ethan Manning
Senator Stacey Donato

Chelsea Day - IDEM
Lisa Ford - Miami County Health Department
Dustin Kern – Peru City Attorney