

CASE HISTORY

IDENTIFYING UNKNOWN SOURCE AREA



The AGI Survey not only confirmed the PCE source area at the dry cleaner site (fig. 1), but also identified a formerly unknown source of TCE at an abandoned septic site (fig. 2).

Survey Summary

Location: Southwest US (Arizona)

Property: Dry cleaner

Soil: Shallow soils and fractured granite (surface to depth); low organic content

Groundwater: 90 ft

History:

- Former residential site converted to commercial
- Known heavy PCE usage as early as 1995
- 1997: PCE detected in drinking water wells nearby
- 1998: Video inspection of sewer line; soil samples and soil gas samples collected; inconclusive results
- 2000: AGI Survey to delineate source and extent of groundwater contamination

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AGI Survey

- 55 AGI passive samplers
- Avg. 25 ft. grid sample spacing
- Focus in and around dry cleaner, adjacent parking lot and along sewer lines in nearby streets
- Modules installed beneath asphalt, building slab and in sewer trenches
- 3-ft. install depth
- 10 14 day exposure
- Modified EPA method 8260/8270 GC/MS analysis at AGI labs

Survey Results

- Suspected PCE source area at dry cleaner site confirmed
- Previously unidentified source of TCE found, identified as abandoned septic system remaining from residential use of property
- Later noted that TCE was commonly used to flush septic system
- AGI Survey identified TCE source area for inclusion in remediation plan



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