



# The Como-tion

## TCE Vapor found in Como soil

### Como Resources:

- Stay informed with **Como Tidbits**. Sign up by just taking a picture:

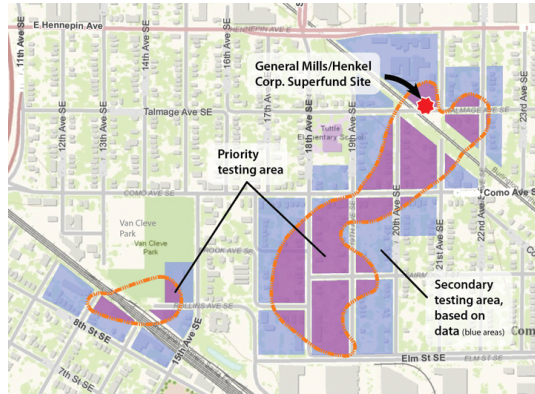


The SECA Livability Committee thanks these good-hearted neighbors for monitoring and emptying these litter containers:

- Jose Chipoco
- Emilie Quast
- Vaith Construction
- Ramy Selim at Sunny Day
- Kathy Knudson

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As many of you have heard, many Como neighbors between 17th and 23rd Ave SE were alerted that their basement air may contain Trichloroethylene (TCE) vapor. TCE is an industrial solvent and degreaser. Recent studies confirm TCE is a carcinogen, a neurotoxin and increases the risk of some heart related birth defects.

The contamination comes from the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund Site at 2010 E Hennepin. From 1947-1962, General Mills dumped of thousands of gallons of industrial waste (predominantly TCE) into an absorption pit on the property. In 1981, General Mills (GMI) investigated and reported that the pit had caused soil and groundwater contamination. In 1985, under MPCA supervision, GMI began to pump and treat the groundwater and replace the contaminated soil. In 2010, TCE groundwater plume had stabilized and the MPCA considered the TCE levels low enough to stop pumping.

New understanding about TCE pollution triggered well-vapor samples in 2011 and this April. Soil samples taken in October, 8 feet down in City right-of-ways across Como confirmed the presence of TCE vapor. While there is no risk of exposure in open air, vapor intrusion in basements allows the vapor to collect and is a risk.

Barr engineering was contracted by GMI to test about 200 homes between 17th and 23rd Ave SE. Homes in the testing zone received a letter and were invited to public meetings on November 12. More homes may require testing, depending on the results. To test, the homeowner/landlord must sign an access agreement. Engineering then come in and drill a small hole in the basement slab and sample the air directly below.

If TCE Vapor is found above 20 micrograms/cubic meter, Barr will install a vapor mitigation system. These systems are identical to those used for radon mitigation. For homes in the current or future testing zones, the test and possible mitigation system are free.

SECA is keeping in touch with MPCA, Barr, GMI, MDH, local politicians, the city and others. We are extending invitations to upcoming meetings as well as bringing on a environmental consultant to assist in document review. To find out more visit

[www.pca.state.mn.us/wdwffra](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/wdwffra) or [www.comogreenvillage.info](http://www.comogreenvillage.info)

For more testing information, call Sara Gaffin at Barr Engineering: 952-832-2935

For project information, contact the MPCA:

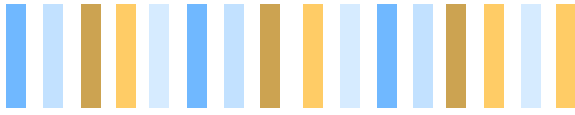
Fred Campbell, project manager, 651-757-2260, [fred.campbell@state.mn.us](mailto:fred.campbell@state.mn.us)

Hans Neve, supervisor, 651-757-2608, [hans.neve@state.mn.us](mailto:hans.neve@state.mn.us)

For health questions, contact MDH:

Rita Messing: 651-201-4916, [rita.messing@state.mn.us](mailto:rita.messing@state.mn.us) or Emily Hansen: 651-201-4602

For General Mills, call 763-293-1165



# Events (<http://tinyurl.com/secomo-calendar>)

## SCR Community Happy Hour

Monday, December 2, 6 p.m.  
Pratt Community Center, 66 Malcolm Ave SE

## SECIA Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## 2nd Precinct Advisory Council

Monday, December 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Monroe Village, 1900 Central Avenue NE

## Cam Gordon Office Hours

Tuesday, December 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Muddsuckers, 1500 Como Avenue SE

## Blueprint Public Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 6 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Friends of the SE Library meeting

Thursday, December 12, 5:30-7:30 pm  
SE Library, 1222 4th St SE

## PPL Resident Council

Friday, December 13, 6:45-8:00 pm  
Brooks Commons, 912 12th Ave SE

## SCR Community Happy Hour

Monday, December 16, 6 p.m.  
Afro Deli, 1939 S 5th Street

## Blueprint Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Community Building Committee Meeting

Off for the Winter  
Will return in February

## Livability Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue

## Environment Committee Meeting

OFF for the holidays

## Southeast Como Improvement Association

1170 15th Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Tel: 612-676-1731  
E-mail: [secomo@secomo.org](mailto:secomo@secomo.org)



[Secomo.org](http://Secomo.org)

Nonprofit Org  
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Permit 30308  
Twin Cities MN



[Comogreenvillage.org](http://Comogreenvillage.org)



Neighborhood based advocacy benefiting Southeast Como and the entire Twin Cities

## THIRD BLUEPRINT PUBLIC MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 6 PM, Van Cleve Park

The Blueprint Steering Committee will present recommendations being considered for inclusion into the Como Blueprint. Participants can ask questions and comment on the recommendations. The recommendations are based primarily on the information gathered from Como residents and stakeholders, covering desires and concerns in areas such as transportation, housing and land use, parks and green space, livability, and other areas.

The fourth, and final public meeting, in early 2014, will be to present the final recommendations. This will be the final draft of the Como Blueprint approximately as it will be presented to the Minneapolis Planning Commission.

So mark your calendars, come to the meeting, and help your community shape the document that will guide Como neighborhood into the future:

The Como Blueprint.