

# Ithaca Journal

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## Officials

*Roger Dupuis II*

*Staff*

to hold  
Morse

pollution

forum

By ROGER DuPUIS II

Journal Staff

ITHACA - South of the Creek area residents concerned about pollution in their neighborhood will have an opportunity to ask questions during a community forum Wednesday.

Representatives from **Emerson** Power Transmission, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the state Health Department are scheduled to be present for two information sessions, from 1:30-4 and 6:30-8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 222 South Cayuga St.

"It's an opportunity for people to come in and have a chance to ask any face-to-face questions they have," **Emerson** spokesman Dave Baldrige said.

Soil vapor testing downhill from the **Emerson** plant in June detected evidence of trichloroethylene and related chemicals cis-1,2-dichloroethene, tetrachloroethene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane in tests done at nine sites on June 17.

TCE levels reached 80 parts per billion in one location, or 80 times state Department of Health outdoor air level guidelines. The organic solvent was used to degrease chains at the former Morse Chain factory under former owners BorgWarner until 1983, when **Emerson** bought the property. TCE was not used under **Emerson's** ownership.

Baldrige said that **Emerson** is in the process of submitting to state officials a work plan for how to proceed in the wake of the test results. That plan is expected to include proposals for indoor air quality testing in neighborhood homes.

Indoor air testing has been done before, in 1991, prior to the state's 1994 approval of a pump-and-treat system for TCE-contaminated groundwater at the plant site. The 1991 tests did detect elevated TCE levels in some homes, particularly in their basements. The June soil vapor tests were ordered out of concern that contaminant levels in the soil remained high despite more than a decade of remediation.

Neighbors have been working to get the word out to the community about Wednesday's meetings. They have a listserv, at [ithacaship@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ithacaship@yahoogroups.com). As well, documents related to the chemical spill have been placed on file in the Tompkins County Public Library's reference section.

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DEC, Dept. of Health, **Emerson** reps to answer

public's questions

