



## IDEM Dry Cleaner and Laundry (DCaL) Dataset

### A Note from the Branch Chief

With Bruce Oertel's retirement, IDEM lost invaluable experience and leadership. Many excellent, highly-qualified people answered the call to help fill that void. Thank you, everyone. As the new Remediation Services Branch Chief, I hope to build on Bruce's legacy of improvement and excellent service to the citizens of Indiana.

My prior work experience includes 26 years at IDEM as a Licensed Professional Geologist within the Technical Support Branch, a project manager and Section Chief in the Indiana Brownfields Program, and as a Technical Environmental Specialist within the Remediation Services Branch. So, while this position may be new to me, many of you are familiar faces from interactions on many projects over the years.

I look forward to the future, building productive partnerships, and working to make Indiana cleaner for all Hoosiers.

*Kevin Davis, Remediation Services Branch Chief*

The number of chlorinated solvent-impacted dry cleaner sites in the Remediation Service Branch (RSB) has grown substantially over the past 20 years. Many of these chlorinated-impacted sites were discovered while conducting investigations, during activities associated with property transfers, or while investigating neighboring properties.

Many of these dry cleaners had releases of the chlorinated solvent tetrachloroethylene, or perchloroethylene (PERC). While PERC contamination can be present in soil and groundwater, the solvent can also volatilize and migrate into buildings in and near contaminated areas. PERC is a persistent contaminant that does not readily degrade, so contamination may be present decades after a dry cleaner has closed.

Due to the number of contaminated dry cleaner sites in the RSB, and the frequent need to identify contributing sources of solvents at active sites, the Branch decided to develop a dry cleaner and laundry (DCaL) dataset. In 2013, the Governor's Summer Internship Program provided RSB the staffing needed to start locating and entering dry cleaner sites into the newly developed dataset. Since 2013, several summer interns have collected and entered additional site references. IDEM staff have also conducted research, entered data, standardized facility addresses and names to agency data standards, merged duplicate addresses, geocoded the locations, and developed a process to update the dataset with new and/or corrected data. IDEM compiled information published in historical and current city directories, business directories, and telephone books listing categories (and variations) which IDEM believed most likely to include dry cleaning facilities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Cleaners (e.g., cleaners and dryers, cleaners and dyers, cleaners and pressers)
- Clothes pressers and cleaners
- Dry cleaners
- Garment pressing and cleaners
- Laundries (including self-serve)

The current DCaL dataset contains over 11,000 locations derived from nearly 78,000 references, with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) data sources contributing over 1,000 historical Indianapolis cleaner locations. The DCaL dataset project has been a collaborative effort to develop a useful tool to identify potential sources of chlorinated solvents in Indiana.

IDEM staff continues to enter current and historical references to the dataset, which is available on OLQ's Dry Cleaner and Laundry website (<https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanups/2452.htm>) and IDEM's Dry Cleaner and Laundry GIS REST service ([https://gis.in.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DEM/Dry\\_Cleaner\\_Laundry/MapServer](https://gis.in.gov/arcgis/rest/services/DEM/Dry_Cleaner_Laundry/MapServer)).

## e-Submission Announcement

IDEM now encourages electronic submittal (e-Submission) of documents to reduce the need to mail paper documents or submit documents via CD/DVD or flash drive. **Please note, e-Submissions cannot fully replace hardcopy submittals required by state or federal statute, so IDEM staff will inform you if a hardcopy submittal is also required.**

e-Submissions must be less than 75 megabytes (MB). If a file cannot be reduced to less than 75MB, it should be broken into multiple files per the Office of Land Quality's Document Submittal guidance ([www.in.gov/idem/landquality/2368.htm](http://www.in.gov/idem/landquality/2368.htm)).

These new e-Submission sites are available for public use and will replace email as Remediation Services Branch's preferred document submittal method.

e-Submission access is available to individual email addresses and shared email accounts. To request or modify your e-Submission access, please use IDEM's e-Submission Enrollment Form ([idem.in.gov/myesubmission](http://idem.in.gov/myesubmission)). Once enrolled, instructions on how to submit documents will be provided.

e-Submission is currently available for the following IDEM programs:

- Confined Feeding
- Emergency Response
- Hazardous Waste Corrective Action/Permitting
- Solid Waste Permitting
- State Cleanup
- Voluntary Remediation (available April 26, 2021)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ICG Begins Auditing Project

In spring 2021, IDEM will start an evaluation of environmentally restricted properties to ensure required land-use restrictions are maintained even after an ownership change. This important auditing task helps safeguard the public and environment by verifying that recorded deed restrictions remain enacted and protective.

Since 2009, more than 3,000 sites across every county and in every IDEM remediation program have closed using environmental restrictive covenants (ERCs), a type of institutional control (IC).

ERCs control exposure pathways and reduce risk of exposure to residual contamination left in place by applying site-specific land-use restrictions. ERCs recorded on the property deed remain in perpetuity, or until IDEM determines that the land-use restrictions are no longer necessary to eliminate the risk to human health and the environment.

For more than a decade, ERCs have been one of several tools

available in IDEM's remediation toolbox to address site contamination. Since properties change ownership over time, IDEM determined that a check was needed to evaluate the continuing effectiveness and overall maintenance of land-use restriction(s) recorded in ERCs.

This auditing project intends to take a two-prong approach. First, when inspectors conduct on-site facility reviews, they will also

### HELLOS and GOODBYES

Stephen Thill joined the Office of Land Quality as Permits Branch Chief in December 2020. Steve previously served as an IDEM attorney for six years. Before joining IDEM, Steve worked as an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan, representing agencies including the Department of Environmental Quality. Steve can be reached at [SThill@idem.IN.gov](mailto:SThill@idem.IN.gov) or 317-232-7200.

perform an ERC check to ensure land-use restrictions are being maintained. Second, IDEM will mail a new Self-Audit Form to environmentally restricted property owners. At the end of the project, an overall rate of IC conformity will be determined.

"At the end of the project, I'd like to see a rate around 95%," said Lynette Schrowe. "Once we see the final numbers, we can determine our next steps to keep Hoosiers safe."

For more information, contact [Lynette Schrowe](mailto:Lschrowe1@idem.IN.gov) at [Lschrowe1@idem.IN.gov](mailto:Lschrowe1@idem.IN.gov) or 317-234-8622.