

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

Brownfields Redevelopment Program



Hunter Health Clinic BTA

Background

The Hunter Health Clinic is a four-office network of community health centers that provide medical, dental, and mental health services to uninsured and otherwise medically underserved patients in Wichita, Kansas. More than 75,000 patients are seen every year. Their Brookside office is located at 2760 S. Roosevelt alongside the Brookside United Methodist Church and the new Lions Vision Center eye care facility.

In 2010 the clinic announced plans to expand the Brookside clinic from two examining rooms to six. Part of the planning and preparation process was to apply for a Brownfields Targeted Assessment (BTA) through KDHE. The clinic was concerned about environmental impacts from nearby industrial and commercial properties and a former filling station next to their property.

Investigation and Redevelopment

The Phase I BTA documented the presence of the former filling station and recommended a Phase II BTA to collect and analyze groundwater samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The Phase II BTA identified high levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) in the groundwater beneath the proposed clinic site. These chlorinated solvents have been used in dry cleaning and manufacturing.



Before construction, the clinic was housed in a small addition to the Brookside Methodist Church building.



The new Hunter Health Clinic office.

VOCs in groundwater beneath a building can potentially send vapors into the structures. KDHE immediately notified Hunter Health Clinic so that vapor intrusion countermeasures could be added to the building. A Phase III BTA confirmed the presence and concentration of the VOCs in groundwater.

In order to identify the contamination source area, KDHE personnel consulted historical records for that area and identified a former commercial laundry and drycleaning service on the property immediately south of the clinic. KDHE designated this property as the Roosevelt Street PCE site and performed a Site Evaluation (SE). The SE confirmed that the Roosevelt Street PCE property was the source of the VOC contamination at the clinic. The site was enrolled in the Kansas Dry Cleaning Program and scheduled for cleanup.

City and state officials attended a ground breaking ceremony for the new clinic in March 2011. The new clinic helps the Hunter Health network provide vital medical services to more than 75,000 patients annually.

Benefits:

- **Contamination in groundwater was identified early so that vapor intrusion mitigation could be incorporated into the building design.**
- **The source of the contamination was identified and enrolled into an appropriate response program.**
- **A vital community health clinic was built to promote the expansion of its services to a critically underserved population.**