

## **SPRING 2012 UPDATE – ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION, FORMER IBM MANASSAS FACILITY**

This fact sheet provides an update on the environmental investigation project undertaken by IBM in Manassas, Virginia. The project is a continuance of work underway for over 30 years at IBM's former Manassas site, to remove volatile organic compounds (also known as VOCs, that are residuals of solvents commonly used in manufacturing) from soil and groundwater. It has been conducted under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

### Summary of work conducted during 2011 - 2012

EPA requested that IBM conduct additional investigations in an area of the Bristoe Station neighborhood, and in January 2011, IBM sent a letter introducing this project to residents of the area. The work began in the March 2011, and continued over the course of one full year with periodic sampling and analysis of groundwater and subsurface air. The objectives included determining whether VOCs were present in groundwater or subsurface air near homes, and to better understand how water and air move through the ground.

Monitoring points were installed at each purple location shown on the figure below. At the locations shown by , VOCs were detected in samples of air and water from the shallow subsurface (up to depths of about 30 feet below ground) at levels that require a next step of investigation. Although there does not appear to be a significant potential for groundwater vapor intrusion, these detections do not allow it to be ruled out. Therefore, a next step of investigation is required.



### Next Step of Investigation and Planned Field Work

IBM plans to install and sample additional monitoring points in the spring and summer of 2012. The approximate locations are shown as blue circles on the figure below. Each location is in a common area owned by the Bristoe Station Homeowners Association (HOA) or City of Manassas - not on private property.



Monitoring points will be installed using truck- or tractor-mounted drilling equipment. Drilling is expected to last about three weeks. During that time, you can expect to see drilling equipment, support trucks, and field personnel in these areas. Homes adjacent to the work areas will be provided a reminder notification before the beginning of drilling work, which will be conducted on weekdays during normal business hours. Monitoring of these locations will begin soon after drilling is completed, and will involve technicians accessing the monitoring points on foot through HOA common areas.

These monitoring points are intended to better assess how air and water move through the ground in this area, and refine our understanding of whether VOCs are present. This information may be used in developing a program of indoor air and subsurface air sampling beneath selected homes. More communication will follow about these plans in late 2012.

Please remember that drinking water is safe and does not come from groundwater. The City of Manassas monitors your drinking water.

As with past work, we will work hard to limit any inconvenience, and to restore the work area to its original condition. IBM will continue to post work notices in the community, and issue periodic fact sheets, such as this one. We will communicate findings to homeowners and residents through the HOA. You are also invited to call the IBM

project information line at **571-377-9840 if you have questions.** Project information and documents are available at the information repository in the Community Development Office at Manassas City Hall, and at the following website:

*[http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/ca/IBM\\_Manassas\\_V2.html](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/ca/IBM_Manassas_V2.html)*