



**To:** Eastview Campus Faculty and Staff

**From:** Steve Kinslow

**Date:** March 10, 2005

**Subject:** **Update on Environmental Test at the Eastview Campus**

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As explained in earlier memos, there is an on-going campus-wide environmental assessment taking place at the Eastview Campus. This assessment is in response to a notification by the City of Austin which identifies portions of the campus as a former municipal solid waste landfill. Environmental experts are collecting and analyzing air and soil samples from inside and outside all EVC facilities. Although the final assessment will require additional time to complete, this memo is provided to describe the key findings to date, as follows:

- Recent testing of subsurface soil vapors collected from beneath the foundation of building 9000 and beneath the parking surface of building 8000 indicate the presence of methane gas.
- Environmental experts have been performing manual gas monitoring in buildings 8000 and 8500 twice per week. The air samples taken from inside these and the other EVC facilities, however, do NOT indicate the presence of methane gas or any other chemical associated with landfills.
- Testing of subsurface soil vapors collected from beneath the foundations of buildings 8000 and 8500 do NOT indicate the presence of methane.
- The College has installed interim air monitors to continually test for the possible presence of methane inside building 9000. A permanent automated air monitoring system will be installed in this building and in buildings 8000 and 8500 during Spring Break.

If a buildup of methane is detected by the permanent air monitoring system, Campus Police Dispatch will be alerted. Campus Police Dispatch and EVC Campus Police will then instruct all occupants to temporarily leave the building (similar to a fire alarm drill), until the alarm conditions can be verified by Austin Fire Department.

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The College is still in the process of registering the property with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) pursuant to regulations which pertain to the use of enclosed structures built over landfills. ACC is also working closely with the Austin Fire Department to ensure the safety of College employees, students, and visitors. Based on the data obtained to date, the administration feels there is no imminent danger and that EVC facilities are safe for use.

ACC will continue to provide periodic updates regarding the status of the ongoing environmental assessments. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact ACC Environmental Health and Safety Manager Becky Cole at 223-1015, or visit the Communications link at [www.austincc.edu/ehs](http://www.austincc.edu/ehs).

SBK/pws