

Kingsford Study Area

Understanding Vapor Control Systems: An informational handout from Ford Motor Company and The Kingsford Products Company

Vapor control systems are designed to minimize the potential for gas-phase methane from subsurface sources from accumulating beneath a structure. Vapor control systems are a preventative measure and an additional safety factor in addressing environmental conditions.

Free installation of a vapor control system is part of the long-term environmental response and monitoring activities in the Kingsford Study Area.



Photo:
A Study Area house with a vapor control system where the pipe vents through the roof at the back of the house. The vapor control system pipe is the farthest right, and has a small wind turbine at the top. This is one option for extending the pipe outside of a structure and above the roof line.

The standard vapor control system consists of a three-inch diameter PVC pipe or equivalent, extending through the concrete floor slab of the lowest level of the structure. The pipe will be sealed where it comes through the floor and either run to the outside of the structure through the basement wall and continue along the side of the structure to the roof or from the lowest level to the roof via the inside of the structure. The top of the pipe, above the roof, is fitted with either a 4-inch wind turbine or rain cap.

For structures with a crawl space or dirt floor, the standard design will be to place and seal a layer of polyethylene sheeting across the crawl space or dirt floor and install the pipe beneath it. The pipe will be sealed where it comes through the sheeting and routed to the outside as described above.

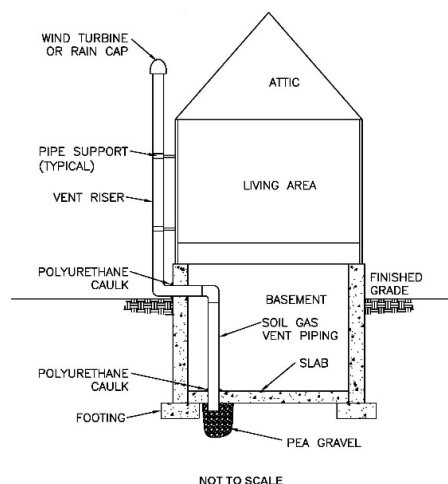
The companies and their contractors will coordinate with the property owner to minimize the appearance of the system as much as possible. This can include activities such as painting the pipe to match the color of the house and working with the owner to determine the best placement for the piping.



Photo:
A vapor control system installed in the basement of a house.

Steps for vapor control system installation:

- Arcadis (the contractor for Ford and Kingsford Products) will meet with the owners to determine an appropriate and acceptable location for the vapor control system.
- With concurrence from the owner, Arcadis will coordinate the sealing of any cracks or openings in the lowest level of the structure that could potentially facilitate gas-phase methane entry.
- The installation of the system will take approximately one to three days.



Diagram, above:

A vapor control system with the pipe extending from the basement of the house to the roof. This is one option for the placement of the pipe.

For additional information or if you would like to have a vapor control system installed free of charge, please call Arcadis

906-776-0853 or visit: www.kingsfordstudyarea.com