

**Table 3.2** General format of a decision matrix

Sub-slab Vapor Concentration of Volatile Chemical (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Indoor Air Concentration of Volatile Chemical (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )		
	Concentration Range 1	Concentration Range 2	Concentration Range 3
Concentration Range 1	ACTION	ACTION	ACTION
Concentration Range 2	ACTION	ACTION	ACTION
Concentration Range 3	ACTION	ACTION	ACTION

Indoor air and sub-slab vapor concentration ranges in a matrix are selected based on a number of considerations in addition to health risks. For example, factors that are considered when selecting the ranges include, but are not limited to, the following:

- human health risks (i.e., cancer and non-cancer health effects) associated with exposure to the volatile chemical in air;
- the NYSDOH's guidelines for volatile chemicals in air [Table 3.1];
- background concentrations of volatile chemicals in air [Section 3.2.4];
- analytical capabilities currently available; and
- attenuation factors (i.e., the ratio of indoor air to sub-slab vapor concentrations).

### 3.4.2 Matrices

The NYSDOH has developed two matrices, which are included at the end of Section 3.4, to use as tools in making decisions when soil vapor may be entering buildings. The first decision matrix was originally developed for TCE and the second for PCE. As summarized in Table 3.3, four chemicals have been assigned to the two matrices to date.

**Table 3.3** Volatile chemicals and their decision matrices

Chemical	Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Matrix*
Carbon tetrachloride	Matrix 1
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	Matrix 2
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA)	Matrix 2
Trichloroethene (TCE)	Matrix 1

\*The decision matrices are available at the end of Section 3.4.

# Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Matrix 1

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SUB-SLAB VAPOR CONCENTRATION of COMPOUND (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )	INDOOR AIR CONCENTRATION of COMPOUND (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )			
	< 0.25	0.25 to < 1	1 to < 5.0	5.0 and above
< 5	1. No further action	2. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	3. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	4. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures
5 to < 50	5. No further action	6. MONITOR	7. MONITOR	8. MITIGATE
50 to < 250	9. MONITOR	10. MONITOR / MITIGATE	11. MITIGATE	12. MITIGATE
250 and above	13. MITIGATE	14. MITIGATE	15. MITIGATE	16. MITIGATE

**No further action:**

Given that the compound was not detected in the indoor air sample and that the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample is not expected to significantly affect indoor air quality, no additional actions are needed to address human exposures.

**Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures:**

The concentration detected in the indoor air sample is likely due to indoor and/or outdoor sources rather than soil vapor intrusion given the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample. Therefore, steps should be taken to identify potential source(s) and to reduce exposures accordingly (e.g., by keeping containers tightly capped or by storing volatile organic compound-containing products in places where people do not spend much time, such as a garage or outdoor shed). Resampling may be recommended to demonstrate the effectiveness of actions taken to reduce exposures.

**MONITOR:**

Monitoring, including sub-slab vapor, basement air, lowest occupied living space air, and outdoor air sampling, is needed to determine whether concentrations in the indoor air or sub-slab vapor have changed. Monitoring may also be needed to determine whether existing building conditions (e.g., positive pressure heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems) are maintaining the desired mitigation endpoint and to determine whether changes are needed. The type and frequency of monitoring is determined on a site-specific and building-specific basis, taking into account applicable environmental data and building operating conditions. Monitoring is an interim measure required to evaluate exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

**MITIGATE:**

Mitigation is needed to minimize current or potential exposures associated with soil vapor intrusion. The most common mitigation methods are sealing preferential pathways in conjunction with installing a sub-slab depressurization system, and changing the pressurization of the building in conjunction with monitoring. The type, or combination of types, of mitigation is determined on a building-specific basis, taking into account building construction and operating conditions. Mitigation is considered a temporary measure implemented to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

**MONITOR / MITIGATE:**

Monitoring or mitigation may be recommended after considering the magnitude of sub-slab vapor and indoor air concentrations along with building- and site-specific conditions.

See additional notes on page 2.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR MATRIX 1

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This matrix summarizes the minimum actions recommended to address current and potential exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. To use the matrix appropriately as a tool in the decision-making process, the following should be noted:

- [1] The matrix is generic. As such, it may be appropriate to modify a recommended action to accommodate building-specific conditions (e.g., dirt floor in basement, crawl spaces, etc.) and/or factors provided in Section 3.2 of the guidance (e.g., current land use, environmental conditions, etc.). For example, resampling may be recommended when the matrix indicates "no further action" for a particular building, but the results of adjacent buildings (especially sub-slab vapor results) indicate a need to take actions to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. Additionally, actions more protective of public health than those specified within the matrix may be proposed at any time. For example, the party implementing the actions may decide to install sub-slab depressurization systems on buildings where the matrix indicates "no further action" or "monitoring." Such an action is usually undertaken for reasons other than public health (e.g., seeking community acceptance, reducing excessive costs, etc.).
- [2] Actions provided in the matrix are specific to addressing human exposures. Implementation of these actions does not preclude investigating possible sources of vapor contamination, nor does it preclude remediating contaminated soil vapors or the source of soil vapor contamination.
- [3] Appropriate care should be taken during all aspects of sample collection to ensure that high quality data are obtained. Since the data are being used in the decision-making process, the laboratory analyzing the environmental samples must have current Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certification for the appropriate analyte and environmental matrix combinations. Furthermore, samples should be analyzed by methods that can achieve a minimum reporting limit of 0.25 microgram per cubic meter for indoor and outdoor air samples. For sub-slab vapor samples, a minimum reporting limit of 5 micrograms per cubic meter is recommended for buildings with full slab foundations, and 1 microgram per cubic meter for buildings with less than a full slab foundation.
- [4] Sub-slab vapor and indoor air samples are typically collected when the likelihood of soil vapor intrusion to occur is considered to be the greatest (i.e., worst-case conditions). If samples are collected at other times (typically, samples collected outside of the heating season), then resampling during worst-case conditions may be appropriate to verify that actions taken to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion are protective of human health.
- [5] When current exposures are attributed to sources other than soil vapor intrusion, the agencies should be given documentation (e.g., applicable environmental data, completed indoor air sampling questionnaire, digital photographs, etc.) to support a proposed action other than that provided in the matrix box and to support agency assessment and follow-up.
- [6] The party responsible for implementing the recommended actions will differ depending upon several factors, including the identified source of the volatile chemicals, the environmental remediation program, and site-specific and building-specific conditions. For example, to the extent that all site data and site conditions demonstrate that soil vapor intrusion is not occurring and that the potential for soil vapor intrusion to occur is not likely, the soil vapor intrusion investigation would be considered complete. In general, if indoor exposures represent a concern due to indoor sources, then the State will provide guidance to the property owner and/or tenant on ways to reduce their exposure. If indoor exposures represent a concern due to outdoor sources, then the NYSDEC will decide who is responsible for further investigation and any necessary remediation. Depending upon the outdoor source, this responsibility may or may not fall upon the party conducting the soil vapor intrusion investigation.

# Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Matrix 2

October 2006

SUB-SLAB VAPOR CONCENTRATION of COMPOUND (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )	INDOOR AIR CONCENTRATION of COMPOUND (mcg/m <sup>3</sup> )			
	< 3	3 to < 30	30 to < 100	100 and above
< 100	1. No further action	2. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	3. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures	4. Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures
100 to < 1,000	5. MONITOR	6. MONITOR / MITIGATE	7. MITIGATE	8. MITIGATE
1,000 and above	9. MITIGATE	10. MITIGATE	11. MITIGATE	12. MITIGATE

#### No further action:

Given that the compound was not detected in the indoor air sample and that the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample is not expected to significantly affect indoor air quality, no additional actions are needed to address human exposures.

#### Take reasonable and practical actions to identify source(s) and reduce exposures:

The concentration detected in the indoor air sample is likely due to indoor and/or outdoor sources rather than soil vapor intrusion given the concentration detected in the sub-slab vapor sample. Therefore, steps should be taken to identify potential source(s) and to reduce exposures accordingly (e.g., by keeping containers tightly capped or by storing volatile organic compound-containing products in places where people do not spend much time, such as a garage or outdoor shed). Resampling may be recommended to demonstrate the effectiveness of actions taken to reduce exposures.

#### MONITOR:

Monitoring, including sub-slab vapor, basement air, lowest occupied living space air, and outdoor air sampling, is needed to determine whether concentrations in the indoor air or sub-slab vapor have changed. Monitoring may also be needed to determine whether existing building conditions (e.g., positive pressure heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems) are maintaining the desired mitigation endpoint and to determine whether changes are needed. The type and frequency of monitoring is determined on a site-specific and building-specific basis, taking into account applicable environmental data and building operating conditions. Monitoring is an interim measure required to evaluate exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

#### MITIGATE:

Mitigation is needed to minimize current or potential exposures associated with soil vapor intrusion. The most common mitigation methods are sealing preferential pathways in conjunction with installing a sub-slab depressurization system, and changing the pressurization of the building in conjunction with monitoring. The type, or combination of types, of mitigation is determined on a building-specific basis, taking into account building construction and operating conditions. Mitigation is considered a temporary measure implemented to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion until contaminated environmental media are remediated.

#### MONITOR / MITIGATE:

Monitoring or mitigation may be recommended after considering the magnitude of sub-slab vapor and indoor air concentrations along with building- and site-specific conditions.

See additional notes on page 2.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR MATRIX 2

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This matrix summarizes the minimum actions recommended to address current and potential exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. To use the matrix appropriately as a tool in the decision-making process, the following should be noted:

- [1] The matrix is generic. As such, it may be appropriate to modify a recommended action to accommodate building-specific conditions (e.g., dirt floor in basement, crawl spaces, etc.) and/or factors provided in Section 3.2 of the guidance (e.g., current land use, environmental conditions, etc.). For example, resampling may be recommended when the matrix indicates "no further action" for a particular building, but the results of adjacent buildings (especially sub-slab vapor results) indicate a need to take actions to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. Additionally, actions more protective of public health than those specified within the matrix may be proposed at any time. For example, the party implementing the actions may decide to install sub-slab depressurization systems on buildings where the matrix indicates "no further action" or "monitoring." Such an action is usually undertaken for reasons other than public health (e.g., seeking community acceptance, reducing excessive costs, etc.).
- [2] Actions provided in the matrix are specific to addressing human exposures. Implementation of these actions does not preclude investigating possible sources of vapor contamination, nor does it preclude remediating contaminated soil vapors or the source of soil vapor contamination.
- [3] Appropriate care should be taken during all aspects of sample collection to ensure that high quality data are obtained. Since the data are being used in the decision-making process, the laboratory analyzing the environmental samples must have current Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) certification for the appropriate analyte and environmental matrix combinations. Furthermore, samples should be analyzed by methods that can achieve a minimum reporting limit of 3 micrograms per cubic meter for indoor and outdoor air samples. For sub-slab vapor samples, a minimum reporting limit of 5 micrograms per cubic meter is recommended.
- [4] Sub-slab vapor and indoor air samples are typically collected when the likelihood of soil vapor intrusion to occur is considered to be the greatest (i.e., worst-case conditions). If samples are collected at other times (typically, samples collected outside of the heating season), then resampling during worst-case conditions may be appropriate to verify that actions taken to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion are protective of human health.
- [5] When current exposures are attributed to sources other than soil vapor intrusion, the agencies should be given documentation (e.g., applicable environmental data, completed indoor air sampling questionnaire, digital photographs, etc.) to support a proposed action other than that provided in the matrix box and to support agency assessment and follow-up.
- [6] The party responsible for implementing the recommended actions will differ depending upon several factors, including the identified source of the volatile chemicals, the environmental remediation program, and site-specific and building-specific conditions. For example, to the extent that all site data and site conditions demonstrate that soil vapor intrusion is not occurring and that the potential for soil vapor intrusion to occur is not likely, the soil vapor intrusion investigation would be considered complete. In general, if indoor exposures represent a concern due to indoor sources, then the State will provide guidance to the property owner and/or tenant on ways to reduce their exposure. If indoor exposures represent a concern due to outdoor sources, then the NYSDEC will decide who is responsible for further investigation and any necessary remediation. Depending upon the outdoor source, this responsibility may or may not fall upon the party conducting the soil vapor intrusion investigation.