Old Farm House

Shirley Road, Groton, Massachusetts

While on site to evaluate the environmental impact of floor drains located in a garage, Ambient discovered a capped vertical pipe located outside of the garage. The pipe was located just west of the garage, and adjacent to a large pine tree.



The pipe raised questions due to the presence of an old gasoline pump located inside the western end of the garage. Vapors from the pipe had a reading exceeding 320 parts per million (ppm) on the PID, and a distinctive gasoline smell was detected. Kolor Kut Gasoline Paste on the probe confirmed that the liquid was a petroleum product. Though there is no record of the size of the tank, 300 gallons would have been a typical size for the time. The interface probe did not register a second layer of liquid, indicating that water was most likely not present in the tank.

Ambient oversaw the removal of the UST by the LaGasse Trucking Company, Inc., of West Groton, Massachusetts. Crew members of LaGasse Trucking excavated around the UST exposing the tank. Representatives from the Groton Fire Department inspected the tank, noting that the tank was intact and there were no visual or olfactory evidence of any leak.

Upon removal of the tank from the ground, Ambient collected soil samples from the tank grave. The soil was analyzed for total organic vapors (TOV) via headspace analysis using a Thermo Environmental Instruments, Inc. Model 580B photoionization detector (PID). No readings above background levels were observed. The Groton Fire Department inspected the tank grave and required no additional activities need be performed. The excavation pit was backfilled to grade.

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