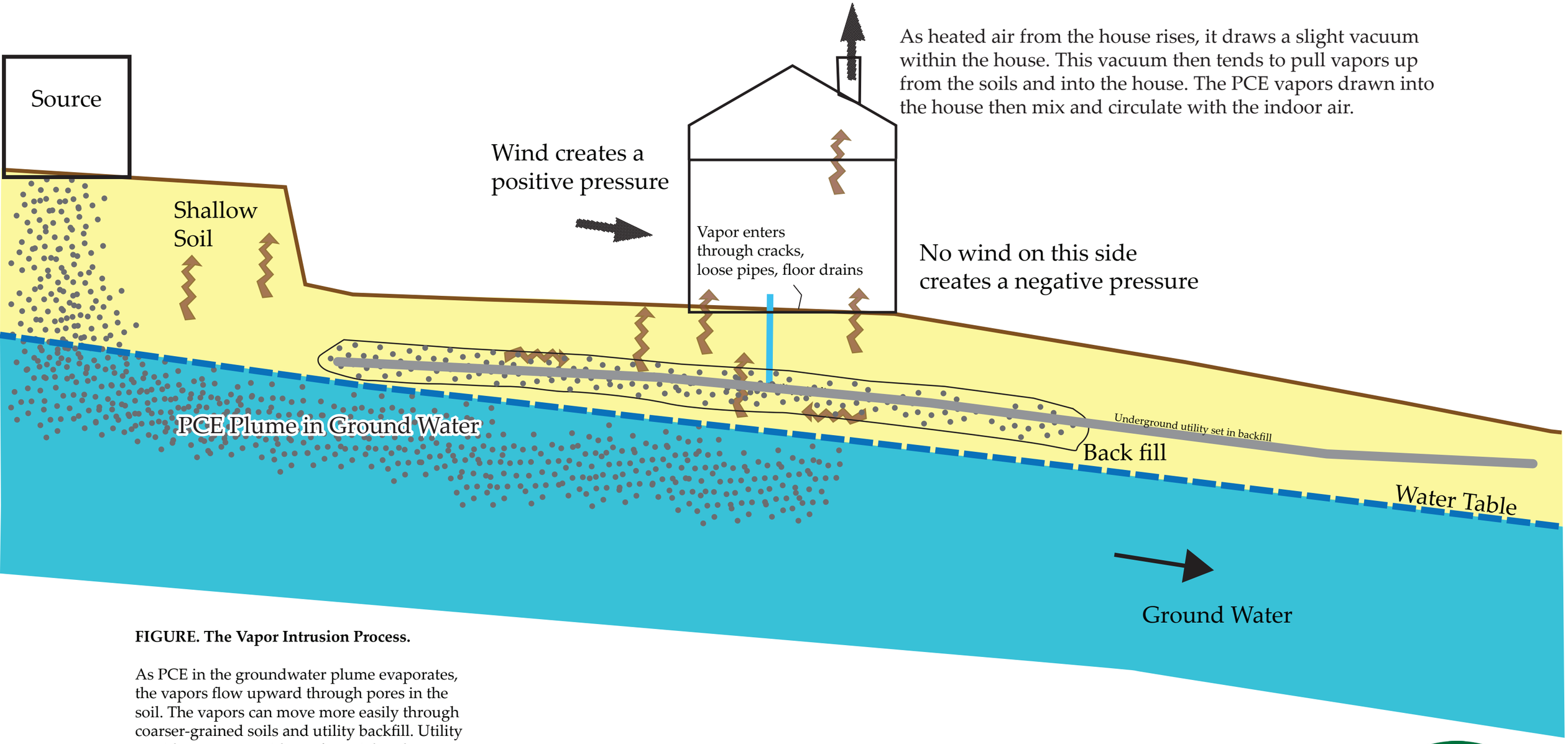

FIGURE. The Vapor Intrusion Process.

As PCE in the groundwater plume evaporates, the vapors flow upward through pores in the soil. The vapors can move more easily through coarser-grained soils and utility backfill. Utility corridors may provide preferential pathways for vapor migration. The vapors can enter into buildings through cracks in the concrete slab or foundation. Vapors may also move along utility lines, such as sewer and water pipes, and enter into the building through gaps in the lines. This process is called “vapor intrusion”.

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