

Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site - August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater contamination at the Cooper and Commerce Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site in Gilbert, AZ. The ADEQ WQARF program, which is also known as state Superfund, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state.

The contaminated groundwater plume is located in the vicinity of Commerce Avenue near Cooper Road in Gilbert. The plume is bounded to the north by West Encinas Street, to the south by the Neely Ranch Preserve, to the east by North Neely Street and to the west by North Ocotillo Drive.

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

The current contaminants of concern (COCs) in the groundwater at the site include tetra-chloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). Groundwater contamination is present in the nearby groundwater monitor wells at concentrations above the Aquifer Water Quality Standard (AWQS). COCs in the soils at the site include arsenic, chromium, copper, TPH, mercury and lead. COCs at the site may change as new data become available.

HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

No drinking water wells have been impacted by the groundwater contamination from the site. The Town of Gilbert drinking water supply well #15, which is one-half mile down gradient from the site, is threatened by the groundwater contamination. However, all municipal drinking water supplies are regularly tested by the Town of Gilbert to ensure that the water meets or exceeds all safe drinking water standards. If you have a private well near the site, please call Scott Goodwin, ADEQ project manager, (602) 771-4452, or toll free at 1(800) 234-5677, Ext. 771-4452.

SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTION

The site was placed on the WQARF Registry in June 2004. In 2006, ADEQ completed an early



A drilling rig installing a monitor well.

response action (ERA) evaluation at the site. During the ERA, concentrations of PCE in the soil and soil vapor were determined and the installation of several soil vapor monitor wells, soil vapor extraction (SVE) wells, and groundwater air sparge wells was completed. ADEQ has installed six groundwater monitor wells off-site to continue to determine the extent of the plume. Concentrations of PCE in these wells indicated the groundwater contamination plume may extend north of Guadalupe Road.

In August 2007, ADEQ conducted an SVE pilot test. The SVE system was designed based on the information gathered during the pilot test. Construction was completed in July 2008 and the SVE system began operating in December 2008. The Salt River Project (SRP) and ADEQ are finalizing the agreement to discharge the treated groundwater to the SRP Western Canal located immediately south of the site. During most of the year, the treated groundwater will be discharged there. However, during periods when the canal is dry, the Town of Gilbert has approved ADEQ's plans to discharge treated groundwater to the water treatment plant located immediately east of the site.

OTHER ADEQ ACTIVITIES

ADEQ issued an amendment to the aquifer protection permit (APP) for the City of Gilbert Neely Water Reclamation Facility on October 15, 2007. The APP allows the Town of Gilbert to recharge 800,000 gallons per day. This higher volume of recharge will maintain the wetlands in the area. Special provisions were added to the APP in order to minimize the probability that the Neely Water Reclamation project would negatively impact the ongoing remediation of contaminants associated with the Cooper and Commerce WQARF site.

WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

The site is currently in the remedial investigation (RI) phase. To further define the extent of the groundwater contamination plume, ADEQ plans to install two additional monitor wells north of Guadalupe Road. One well will be west of Cooper Road, and the other will be east. When the RI is completed, the final cleanup options will be developed and analyzed in a feasibility study. These reports have public comment periods associated with them, and notification will be provided.



Soil Vapor Extraction and Groundwater Treatment System Compound.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A community advisory board (CAB) has been formed for the site. The purpose of the CAB is to advise ADEQ, the public and other interested parties about the issues and concerns of the community related to the investigation and cleanup of a WQARF site. Details of CAB meeting agendas and minutes for 2009 can be viewed at the ADEQ Web site. CAB meetings are open to the public.

Technical Information:

Scott Goodwin
ADEQ Project Manager
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-4452
toll free at (800) 234-5677 Ext: 771-4452
E-mail: sdg@azdeq.gov

Community Involvement:

Felicia Calderon
ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-4167
toll free at (800) 234-5677 Ext: 771-4167
E-mail: fmc@azdeq.gov
Fax number (602) 771-4138

Hearing-impaired individuals may call our TDD line at (602) 771-4829.

Interested parties can review select site documents at the Southeast Regional Library at 775 N. Greenfield Rd. in Gilbert. The phone number is (602) 652-3000. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Saturday 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. <http://www.ci.gilbert.az.us/library/>.

The complete site file can be reviewed by contacting ADEQ. With 24-hour notice, an appointment to review related documentation is available, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ADEQ, Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ. Please contact (602) 771-4380 to schedule an appointment to review site documents.

For more information on this WQARF site or others sites in Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: www.azdeq.gov. In the left hand column, click on Waste Programs, then Superfund/WQARF. Look for Site Information and Maps link.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, comuníquese con Felicia Calderon al (602) 771-4167.