

West Central Phoenix North Plume Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site - April 2010

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater contamination at the West Central Phoenix (WCP) North Plume Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site. The ADEQ WQARF Program, which is also known as the State Superfund Program, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state. This site is bounded approximately by West Highland Avenue to the north, 37th Avenue to the east, Indian School Road to the south and 44th Avenue to the west.

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

The main contaminants of concern at this site are tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE), vinyl chloride, and chromium. PCE is a manufactured chemical widely used for dry cleaning and metal degreasing. TCE is a colorless liquid used as a solvent, metal degreasing agent, and in other industrial applications. 1,1-DCE is used to make certain plastics, packaging materials, and flame retardant coatings. Typically, it is a degradation product of other chlorinated solvents. Vinyl chloride is a flammable, colorless gas at room temperatures. It is used to make polyvinyl chloride, which is used to make plastic products. Also, vinyl chloride is often an end product when PCE and TCE chemically decompose in the environment. Chromium is typically used in dyes, paints, stainless steel, metallurgy, chrome plating, and magnetic tape. Other contaminants at the site include: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and nitrates. Contaminants of concern at the site may change as new data become available.

HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

Any risks associated with exposure to contaminated groundwater are principally through drinking the contaminated water. The groundwater under this site is not used in the public drinking water system. If you are connected to a public drinking water system, your public water provider is required by law to provide water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. The City of Phoenix conducts regular testing of your drinking water to ensure the standards are met and to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to the community. For more information on your

water quality, contact the Phoenix Water Services Department at (602) 262-6251. If you have a private well near the site, please contact the ADEQ Project Manager at (602) 771-4186. There is currently no known threat of direct exposure to the public from the contamination at the site.

SITE HISTORY

ADEQ has been conducting an investigation in the WCP area to learn more about potential soil and groundwater contamination since it was made a state superfund site under WQARF in 1987. The North Plume Site was placed on the WQARF Registry in 1998 with a score of 50 out of a possible 120 and was re-scored in 2000 with a score of 55 out of 120. Four facilities were identified as likely sources of the groundwater contamination in the site: the F&B facility, Pyramid facility, former Rinchem facility, and Hill Brothers Chemical Company facility. Since 1967, F&B has been manufacturing metal aircraft and spacecraft parts and performing sheet metal forming, and assembly. The Hill Brothers facility has operated as a chemical distribution facility at this location since 1969. Chemicals that include acids, bases, solvents, chlorine, and concrete additives were stored in above ground storage tanks on-site prior to transfer into containers for distribution. The former Pyramid Industries, Inc. operated a telephone and television cable riser boxes manufacturing facility from 1977 to 1994.



SVE treatment system at the F&B manufacturing facility.

Operations at the facility required the use of acids, caustics, heavy metals, paints, and methylene chloride. Several suspected sources of contamination have been identified on the Pyramid facility, including the loading dock/drywell, paint room, and historic hook cleaner.

INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTIONS

Field investigation activities for the site have been conducted between 1984 and the present time. In August 1999, a consent decree allowed ADEQ to complete the Remedial Investigation (RI) report and feasibility study for the F&B facility. Remediation of the F&B facility included the installation of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system in 2001, and two excavations held in July 2000 and September 2001. As of December 2007, over 41,400 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were removed from the site. In 2008, three new wells were installed in the area in an effort to evaluate the potential to capture and treat contaminated groundwater. In addition, an SVE system was put in place at the Hill Brothers facility in 2008 to remediate potentially contaminated soils beneath the facility. As of December 2009, the system has removed approximately 270 pounds of VOCs. The final RI report was issued by ADEQ in April 2009. There are no cleanup actions being taken by ADEQ at this time.

WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

Due to current budget constraints, all work at the site has been temporarily suspended. ADEQ plans to continue groundwater sampling and monitoring when funding is made available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Interested parties can review site information at the ADEQ main office located at 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 to schedule an appointment with 24-hour notice to review these documents. Once all documents requested have been collected, you will be contacted for a review Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix, AZ.

For further information on this site or other WQARF sites, please visit ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov. Click on Waste Programs, then Superfund/WQARF, and follow the prompts for the information you need.

Technical Information:

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*In Arizona, but outside of the Phoenix area, call toll-free at (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771- 4186.

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