

West Central Phoenix (WCP) Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site - September 2004

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information to the community about the environmental project and opportunities to participate in the public process.

Italicized terms are defined in the glossary.

BACKGROUND

Since 1987, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has been conducting an investigation in the West Central Phoenix (WCP) Area to learn more about the presence of *contamination* in the soil and *groundwater*. In the summer of 1998, the West Central Phoenix Area was split into the five Sites listed on the map. *Remediation* (cleanup) and investigation work at the site is funded and managed by the State's Superfund Program, also known as the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF).

ADEQ is conducting an investigation in the West Central Area to learn more about the presence of contamination in the soil and groundwater. Contamination in the area was first detected in the groundwater in July 1982. The city of Phoenix found the chlorinated cleaning solvent trichloroethylene (TCE) in four city water supply wells in the West Central Phoenix Area. The two wells with the highest concentrations of TCE were shut down in 1982. Monitoring continued on the other two wells to make sure that they met safe drinking water standards. The City of Phoenix closed the last two wells in 1989.

After the initial discovery, extensive groundwater sampling in the West Central Phoenix Area was conducted by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the City of Phoenix, and Salt River Project. The sampling verified the presence of chlorinated solvents in city wells and irrigation wells in the West Central Phoenix Area. ADEQ has

Community Advisory Board Members Needed!

(See the CAB Application Inside)

How You Can Serve Your Community While Learning About the Environment

- Are you concerned about the environment and protecting public health?
- Do you live, work, own property or a business in the West Central Phoenix area and/or are you interested in the project?
- Would you like to learn more about environmental investigations and cleanup techniques?
- Do you have a minimum of two hours a day, four times a year to volunteer?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, you may be interested in applying for the WCP Community Advisory Board (CAB)! No technical experience is necessary, only an interest to serve as a public member to share community issues and concerns related to the site cleanup.

- **How do you apply?** Simply complete the application inside and mail it in by October 1, 2004.
- **Who are the CAB members?** How are they selected? Membership is comprised of a diversified cross-section of community members who apply. Additional members will be considered at a regularly scheduled CAB meeting.
- **What happens at a CAB meeting?** The ADEQ project manager and community involvement coordinator present updates about the project, including information about investigation results, cleanup progress, and community outreach activities. The CAB members may request additional information and offer suggestions on ADEQ's cleanup goals and methods.
- **How many times does the CAB meet?** Based on state law, the group is required to meet with ADEQ a minimum of four times per year, although they may choose to hold more meetings.
- **What else do CAB members do?** They can participate in community outreach and make site visits if desired.
- Since you are serving as a volunteer, you will not be paid for your time; however, your efforts will be valued by the community.

To apply for the CAB, please complete and return the enclosed application by October 1, 2004. For more information, contact Monica Mascareno, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (602) 771-4710 or toll free in Arizona (800) 234-5677.

done extensive soil and groundwater sampling and analysis.

In 1984, a survey was taken of more than 400 area businesses that might have stored, handled, or disposed of *hazardous substances*. Based on that investigation, it was determined that the contamination came from several sources. In 1987, West Central Phoenix was placed on the State's Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund priority list.

Contaminants known to be present at levels above regulatory limits at the West Central Phoenix Area include the solvents TCE and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) which are present in the groundwater and in some soils.

WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?

ADEQ is currently conducting the *remedial investigation* at the five West Central Phoenix sites: East Grand Avenue, North Canal Plume, West Grand Avenue and West Osborn Complex. Soil and soil-gas sampling, monitor well installation, water level measurements, and groundwater sampling activities are ongoing to define the extent of contamination. The information collected from these investigations will help ADEQ determine how to clean up these sites.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER?

The groundwater under the West Central Phoenix Area is not used in the public drinking water system. If you are connected to a public drinking water provider water system, your public water provider, the City of Phoenix, 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 delivered to the community.

For more information on your water quality, please contact the City of Phoenix Water Services at (602) 262-6151. If you are using a private well in the area shown on the map below and would like information regarding well testing, please call Ana Vargas, ADEQ Project Manager, at (602) 771-4178.

GET INVOLVED!

As progress continues in the West Central Phoenix Area, we will keep the public informed of the latest findings through newsletters and meetings. If you would like to be notified of the CAB meetings, please contact Monica Mascareno, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (602) 771-4710 or toll free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677. **Please remember to return the enclosed CAB application by October 1, 2004, if you would like to be considered for membership.**

Interested parties can review site information at ADEQ's main facility at 1110 W. Washington Street, in Phoenix, Arizona. To do so, please call the Records Management Center to make an appointment, at least 24 hours in advance, at (602) 771-4380.

For further information on the site or other WQARF sites, please visit our web site at www.azdeq.gov. Follow the prompts for the information you need. A hard copy of the information on the web site is available in the Superfund Program Section Information Booklet; it may be purchased by contacting the General Services desk at (602) 771-7638 or toll free in Arizona at (800) 234-5677.

ADEQ CONTACTS

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Hearing impaired persons call ADEQ's TDD line: (602) 771-4829

ADEQ offices are located at:

1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

fax: (602) 771-4246

main number: (602) 771-2202

GLOSSARY

Contamination - Any hazardous substance released into the environment.

Groundwater - Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, clay or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

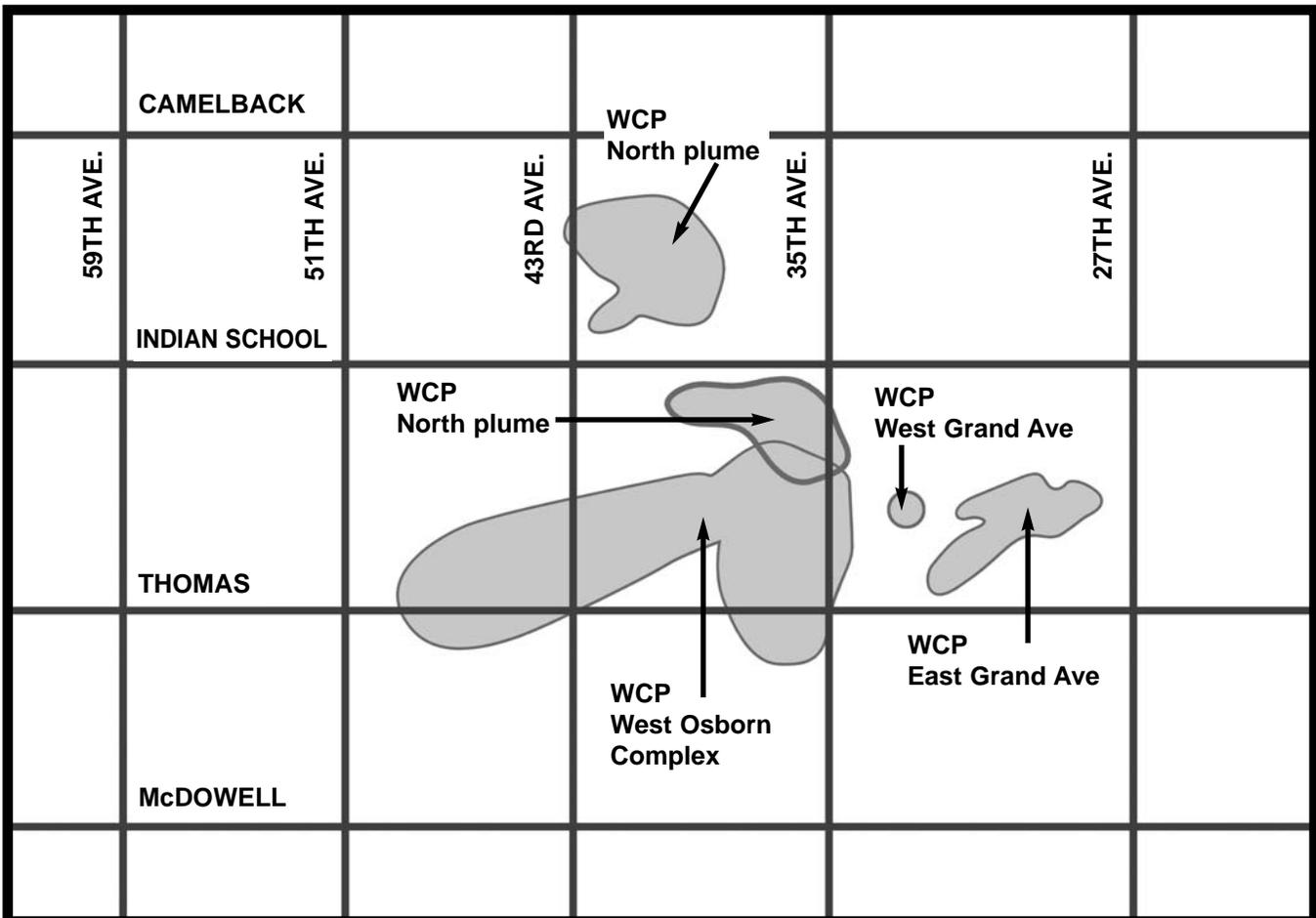
Hazardous Substance - any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment.

Remediation - Actions taken to deal with the release of a hazardous substance that could affect people or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, remedy.

Remedial Investigation - An in-depth study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) - A program administered by ADEQ to (1) conduct statewide surface and groundwater monitoring; (2) study health effects; (3) perform emergency remedial actions; and (4) conduct long-term remedial action programs. Also known as "State Superfund."

West Central Phoenix (WCP) Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site





West Central Phoenix (WCP) Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Area Community Advisory Board (CAB) Membership Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Organization / Association: _____

Address: _____ Zip code: _____

Mailing address: (if different from above)

Zip code: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Phone numbers: (home:) _____ (work:) _____
(mobile:) _____ (other:) _____

Email address: _____

How long have you lived in the area? _____

Are you willing to make a commitment to serve on the CAB for at least 1 year? Yes No (please check box)

Are you able to attend at least four meetings a year? Yes No (please check box)

Please explain why you would like to serve on the Community Advisory Board (attach a separate sheet if needed):

Please complete and return this application. Please fold and tape this form before mailing (no staples).

PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAME AL (602) 771-4710



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West Central Phoenix WQARF Area News
Inside: Project Update and
Community Advisory Board Application
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU FROM