

Fact Sheet  
December  
2003

# Univar USA Inc. Jillson Street Facility Commerce, California



## PHASE II FACILITY INVESTIGATION

### OFF-SITE SOIL-GAS SAMPLING BEGINS

*It is DTSC's mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

#### Introduction

In February of 2002, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) entered into an agreement with Univar USA Inc. (Univar) to oversee the investigation and cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater at the Jillson Street Facility (Facility). The property, on which the Facility is located, was sold to an office products manufacturer/distributor and is located in an industrial/residential area at 5353 Jillson Street in the City of Commerce, California (see Figure 1). The DTSC/Univar agreement remains in force and outlines the steps for conducting an investigation of the Facility in order to evaluate the type and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and to perform necessary cleanup of contaminants. As part of the investigation, off-site soil-gas sampling started in early December of 2003. This agreement also directs Univar to perform interim cleanup measures, if such measures are necessary.

The investigation is being performed in accordance with the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The results of the Facility investigation, called the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), will be used to conduct a Corrective Measures Study (CMS). This CMS will form the basis

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

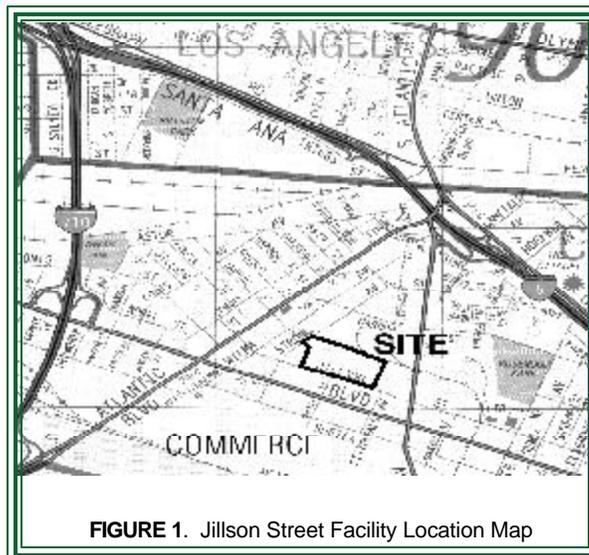


FIGURE 1. Jillson Street Facility Location Map

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for selecting a cleanup method from the alternatives for the elimination of any threat to human health and the environment. This Fact Sheet presents background information on the Jillson Street Facility, reports the findings of the Phase I and Phase II investigation activities, and provides a list of contacts to whom any questions or concerns by the public should be addressed.

## Site Background

The Facility has been used for chemical distribution since it was constructed in the mid-1950s. From 1958 until 2002, the Facility had been owned and operated by Univar or one of its subsidiaries (Van Waters and Rogers, Inc., Vopak USA, Inc.). The facility is no longer in operation. See Figure 2 for the layout of the Facility.

In June of 1996, DTSC completed a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) in order to review the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, previously issued for the Facility. The RFA concluded that no further investigations were required to determine whether significant releases of hazardous materials and hazardous waste constituents had occurred at the Facility.

## Initial Investigation

In June of 2001, soil samples were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in preparation for the closure of a clarifier (settling tank). The results of this investigation did not show any significant contamination.

In April of 2002, Univar submitted a report to DTSC requesting the closure of the Hazardous Waste Container Storage Area (Storage Area). Subsequently, Univar submitted a closure plan to DTSC which was approved in May of 2002. Some of the soil samples collected, in accordance with the closure plan, from beneath the concrete pad in the Storage Area, contained certain VOCs, in particular, trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE).

DTSC approved the closure plan for the Storage Area in June of 2002. The plan allowed for TCE and PCE to be left in place and to be cleaned up under the February, 2002 agreement.

## Phase II RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)

The objective of the Phase II RFI is to delineate the extent of contamination and to identify potential risks to human health and the environment from any chemicals that may have originated from the Facility. The Phase II RFI includes an analysis of soil and ground water from samples collected beneath the Facility and beneath adjacent streets in the surrounding neighborhood.

Subsequent to completion of the Phase II RFI, appropriate cleanup methods will be proposed in the Corrective Measures Study. The initial Phase II RFI data will be used to assess the need to implement an interim remedial action for immediate Facility stabilization.

## Off-site Soil-Gas Sampling To Begin

Additional soil-gas sampling started in early December of 2003. Samples will initially be taken along Strong Avenue and Jardine Street. The analysis of these samples will help to determine the extent of contamination. To date, low concentrations of VOCs were detected in the analysis of soil-gas samples at the Facility. The highest concentrations of VOCs in the soil were detected at approximately 40 to 60 feet below ground surface (bgs), and TCE was the principal VOC detected. Off-site migration of VOCs in ground water is being investigated since ground water was found at about 85 feet bgs.

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## **Corrective Measures Study (CMS) And Remedy Selection**

After the RFI is completed and we have defined the full extent of the contamination, Univar will prepare a CMS. In the CMS, different cleanup methods are identified, evaluated, and recommended. As part of the Remedy Selection process, DTSC will review the CMS and, once approved, present the preferred cleanup method(s) for public review and comment. The remedy selected is also subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A CEQA determination will be made and also presented for public review and comment.

Also, DTSC reviews and responds to all public comments in writing and sends a copy of the Response to Comments to all persons who submit comments and to those who request a copy. After responding to public comments, DTSC, where appropriate, may revise the preferred cleanup method(s) before finalizing the Remedy Selection. Once the Remedy Selection is finalized, a cleanup work plan will be prepared and implemented. The community will be informed of the work plan's implementation and the progress of the cleanup via future fact sheets.

## **Public Participation**

DTSC encourages public involvement and will publish fact sheets with the results of the Phase II RFI. If a cleanup is required, public notices will be published in the East Side Sun, in both the English and Spanish versions, announcing the public comment period for the Remedy Selection. If community interest warrants, a public meeting and/or a public hearing will be held. Those persons on the Facility mailing list will be notified by mail of public comment periods, meetings, and/or hearings.

## **Information Repositories**

Facility-related documents are in the information repositories listed below. This includes the Clarifier Closure Report, Current Conditions Report, and the Phase I RFI. Other documents are available through the Project Manager, listed under Information Contacts below.

Univar USA Inc.  
2600 South Garfield Avenue  
Commerce, California 90043  
(323) 827-7158

DTSC, Glendale Office  
1011 North Grand Avenue  
Glendale, California 91202  
(818) 500-1025

## **Information Contacts**

Ken Payne, DTSC Project Manager  
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Sacramento, CA 95826  
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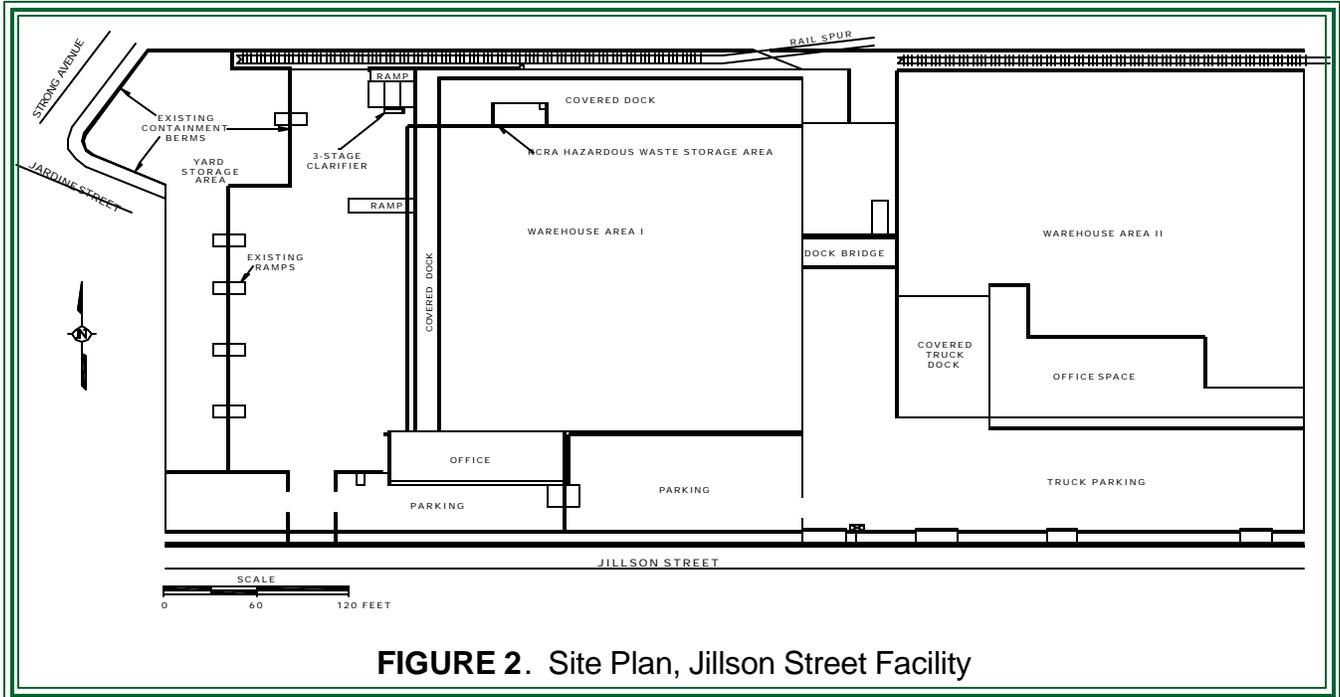
Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Media Contact  
Public Information Officer  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201-2205  
(818) 551-2176  
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

## Univar Contact

George Sylvester, Univar USA Inc.  
2600 South Garfield Avenue  
Commerce, CA 90043  
(323) 827-7158

## Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask the operator to contact Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649 regarding the Univar, Jillson Street Facility.



## Mailing List Information

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and wish to be on the Univar USA Inc., Jillson Street Facility mailing list, please complete the coupon below and return it to Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist, at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Please add my name to the Univar USA Inc., Jillson Street Facility mailing list. DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Representing:

Phone number:

E-mail: