

Fact Sheet #2
December
2001

William Mead Homes North of Cardinal Street Remedial Investigation Results



*It is DTSC's
mission to protect
public health
and the
environment
from
harmful exposure
to hazardous
substances.*

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet summarizes the results of the two phases of the environmental investigation at William Mead Homes (WMH), in the area north of Cardinal Street. The fact sheet is being sent to all residents of WMH and to interested community members. The goals of the investigations were to determine:

- 1) if lead, benzene, or other contamination from the old refinery operations south of Cardinal Street or from other sources is present in the area north of Cardinal Street
- 2) if cleanup or other action is required.

PHASE I SAMPLING RESULTS

Initial sampling conducted in August 2000 in the area north of Cardinal Street consisted of 178 borings. The samples were taken from the surface down to a depth of 11 feet. These samples were collected and analyzed for polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. The results indicated that of the 375 samples analyzed for lead, 32 showed concentrations above the cleanup level used for south of Cardinal Street (300 mg/kg). Only 2 of the samples analyzed for PAHs showed higher than allowable limits. Benzene, also a VOC, was detected in low concentrations in 6 of the 207 samples analyzed. The benzene concentrations in these samples were below levels that could cause health problems.

PHASE II SAMPLING RESULTS

A supplemental round of sampling was conducted in September of 2001 to better define the contaminated soil area. During this round, 86 soil samples were collected to determine the extent of lead. Of the 86 samples collected, 82 were collected from up to a depth of 1 foot

OPEN HOUSE

DTSC invites you to an Open House where you will have an opportunity to discuss and ask questions on a one-one basis with DTSC Project Staff. There will not be a formal presentation at this Open House.

Date: Saturday, January 5, 2002

Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Place: William Mead Homes
Community Building
1300 Cardinal Street
Los Angeles, CA

For more information contact,
Mr. Derrick Alatorre, Public Participation
Specialist, (714) 484-5474.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

and 4 were from a depth of 5 feet. Special emphasis was given to areas where children might play.

From the 86 samples analyzed, 15 exceeded the cleanup level of 300 mg/kg. The lead levels in these 15 samples ranged from 316 mg/kg to 6700 mg/kg.

A map showing sampling locations and results is attached to this Fact sheet. To find benzene and other VOCs, soil gas samples were also taken at locations surrounding the locations where benzene was detected during the August 2000 sampling. A total of 32 vapor probes were installed and analyzed for VOCs.

No benzene was detected in these vapor samples. The only VOCs detected were very low levels of trichloroethane (TCA) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Concentrations of these two chemicals were below levels that could be expected to cause health problems and do not pose a risk.

The full report on the results of the investigation is available for public review at the following information repositories:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Fileroom
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551-2886
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

William Mead Homes Mgmt Office
1300 Cardinal Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(323) 221-9197
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS?

DTSC performed a preliminary human health risk evaluation to estimate the effect of possible lead exposure to the residents. Benzene and other VOCs were not included in the health risk evaluation because the concentrations found in both sampling rounds

were below levels that could pose a risk. The results indicate that if children had direct contact with dirt containing lead exceeding the cleanup level, a potential health hazard would exist. DTSC has required HACLA to ensure all grass areas are maintained and cover any exposed soil until a cleanup solution is approved.

If you are concerned that your children may have been exposed to lead, contact the Los Angeles County Lead Program Hotline at 1-800-524-5323. The hotline will provide information on where to get free or low cost tests for lead in blood.

WHAT IS NEXT?

DTSC and HACLA have entered into a Consent Order that requires HACLA to complete a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and take appropriate action to clean up the lead-contaminated soil. The RI/FS will include more detailed sampling and analysis of the area, and an evaluation of different alternatives for cleaning up the contamination. The community will be kept informed throughout this process and will be involved in the plans for any cleanup that may be proposed.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

To receive additional information or ask questions by telephone, please contact Derrick Alatorre (para español), DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5474; or Ryan Kinsella, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2961. If you reach a voice mail, please leave your name, area code and phone number, and your message. Your call will be returned promptly as we are very interested in hearing from you.

SITE HISTORY

William Mead Homes consists of multi-story, government subsidized residential units. The Housing

Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to perform a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment of the land south of Cardinal Street. The assessment revealed the presence of lead and other contamination in the soil. Based on the results from these environmental investigations, DTSC approved the excavation and removal of the contaminated soil, which was completed earlier this year. In response to concerns expressed by residents north of Cardinal Street that their area might also be contaminated, DTSC conducted sampling of the soil in the area north of Cardinal Street. This two-phased investigation was conducted in August 2000 and September 2001.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Benzene – A petroleum derivative widely used in the chemical industry. A few uses are: synthesis of rubber, nylon, polystyrene, and pesticides, and production of gasoline. It is a highly volatile chemical readily absorbed by breathing, ingestion, or contact with the skin. It is listed as a cancer-causing chemical under Proposition 65.

Boring – Usually, a vertical hole drilled into the ground from which soil samples can be collected and analyzed to determine the presence of chemicals and the physical characteristics of the soil.

Health Risk Assessment – A study prepared to assess risks to human health and the environment due to exposure to hazardous substances.

Lead - A heavy metal present in small amounts everywhere in the human environment. Lead can get into the body from drinking contaminated water, eating vegetables grown in contaminated soil, eating lead-based paint, or breathing dust when children play or adults work in lead-contaminated areas. It can cause damage to the nervous system and blood cells. Children are at highest risk because their bodies are still developing. Lead and its compounds are listed as a reproductive toxic substance for women and men and a cancer-causing substance under Proposition 65.

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) – Natural constituents of crude oil, and also may be formed when organic materials such as coal, oil, fuel, wood, or even foods are not completely burned. PAHs are found in lampblack, a by-product of historic gas manufacturing processes. They are also found in a wide variety of other materials such as diesel exhaust, roofing tars, asphalt, cigarettes, petroleum products, some foods, and even some shampoos. PAHs tend to stick to the ground, do not easily dissolve in water, and generally do not move in the environment.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)- A series of investigations and studies to identify the types and extent of chemicals of concern at the site, determine the cleanup criteria, and provide an evaluation of the alternatives for cleaning up any identified soil or groundwater problems.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – Organic liquids, including common solvents, that readily evaporate at temperatures normally found at ground surface and at shallow depths.

Mailing Coupon

If you are not currently on the mailing list or know of an individual or group that would like to be added to the William Mead Homes North of Cardinal Street mailing list, please complete and return the mailing coupon. Please address all mailings to: Mr. Derrick Alatorre, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630.

NAME: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

STREET: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailings lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



Mr. Derrick Alatorre
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

INSIDE: INFORMATION ON THE WILLIAM MEAD HOMES NORTH OF CARDINAL STREET