



# Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, November 2005

## Wyle Labs Investigation Update

This fact sheet gives an update on the investigation of the former Wyle Laboratories site in Norco, California, including the results of recent sampling at Norco High School. The goal of the investigation is to find and clean up chemical contamination that resulted from Wyle's former operations. This includes sampling areas around the site to find any chemical contamination that has moved offsite into the community.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and cleanup of this site.

### **School sampling results from July and September 2005**

In July 2005, we required Wyle to test the indoor air at Norco Elementary, Norco Intermediate, and Norco High School. Trace levels of two common solvents, TCE (trichloroethene) and PCE (tetrachloroethene), were found in some classrooms at all three schools. These levels were similar to what is found in outside air, both in Norco and in surrounding communities. *We determined that all three schools are safe.* At the high school, one classroom in the Science Building had a trace level of vinyl chloride. While this level did not pose a health risk, we required Wyle to further investigate the High School classrooms.

In September 2005, Wyle tested the air in 12 more classrooms at the high school. The results showed very low levels of TCE in three rooms, and of PCE in nine rooms. In most classrooms the levels found in indoor air are in the same range as those found in July. These levels are similar to levels seen in the outdoor air in Norco and surrounding communities. In addition to TCE and PCE, low levels of vinyl chloride were found in two classrooms in the Science Building. These levels are similar to the vinyl chloride level seen in the July 2005 sample in the Science Building. The vinyl chloride in these two rooms does not pose a risk to students. However, these levels may pose a very slight increase in risk to a teacher who is in the room for 40 years or more. The Science Building was constructed in 2003. *All classrooms at the high school are safe for students.*

The detailed results of both the July and September sampling are on our website and at the locations listed at the end of this fact sheet.

### **School groundwater and soil gas results**

Both rounds of sampling at the high school included tests of the groundwater and the soil gas. The chemicals TCE and PCE were found in the soil gas and groundwater at low levels that do not pose a health risk. The water used at the schools is supplied by the City of Norco from distant wells and other sources. The drinking water at all three schools was tested in September 2005 and no contamination was found.



### **Next steps at the high school**

Because of the repeated detections of vinyl chloride in the Science Building classrooms and the slight long-term risk to faculty, we are requiring Wyle to take measures to reduce the trace amounts of chemicals in these rooms. We will have more information on this in the near future. We are also requiring Wyle to continue monitoring indoor air, soil gas, and groundwater at the high school on a regular basis.

### **Other offsite sampling**

The testing at the schools is only a part of a larger ongoing investigation. With our oversight, Wyle is sampling groundwater, soil gas, and indoor air on the Wyle property and in the surrounding areas. Some of this sampling will help us determine whether the contamination extends beyond the school property, and if sampling is needed in nearby areas.

Most recently, Wyle collected indoor air samples at four residences: 965, 970, 975 and 998 Third Street. These four homes were close to where we found soil gas contamination during sampling last January. This sampling was part of our effort to find the extent of contamination beyond Wyle's northwest boundary. The indoor air sampling found trace levels of TCE and PCE, similar to what is in the outdoor air. These levels do not pose a health threat to the residents in these homes.

### **Vapor removal on Golden West Lane**

As we've reported in earlier fact sheets, Wyle will be removing chemical vapors from the soil in the area next to Wyle's northwestern boundary. This system will use a vacuum unit to pull chemical vapors from the soil near the southern end of Golden West Lane. The chemicals will go through carbon filters, and clean air will be discharged. Soil vapor extraction wells have been installed at the end of the street and in three driveways. The extraction system will be installed on the Wyle property within the next few weeks.

### **More investigation and cleanup**

The investigation at Norco High School and the cleanup of soil vapors from Golden West Lane are only a small part of the overall Wyle investigation and cleanup. The ultimate goal is to find out the full extent of the chemical contamination from the Wyle site and clean it up. We will continue to keep you informed as this investigation proceeds, and the final cleanup proposal will be offered for

public review before we make a final decision.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you have questions or would like more information about the Wyle site investigation, please contact:

DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
Kim Foreman, (714) 484-5324  
Email: [KForeman@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:KForeman@dtsc.ca.gov)

DTSC Project Manager  
Juan Osornio, (714) 484-5498  
Email: [JOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:JOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Media Inquiries**

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, (818) 551-2176  
Email: [JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

For more information about our department, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Public Participation Specialist Kim Foreman at (714) 484-5324.

### **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

The sampling results as well as other Wyle-related documents are at Norco City Hall, 2870 Clark Avenue, Norco; and the Corona Public Library, 650 S. Main Street, Corona.

Reports and sampling results can also be found on our website at:

[http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Wyle\\_Laboratories/index.html](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Wyle_Laboratories/index.html)