

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Project Status Update
for
Wyle Laboratories Norco Facility Site
July 25, 2005

SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP

- We plan to approve Wyle's work plan to conduct soil gas and indoor air sampling at the three schools near the Wyle site. The proposed sampling is designed to address community concerns and to assess whether contaminants are impacting these schools. In our comments, we requested additional samples at Norco Elementary, Norco Intermediate, and Norco High School. Sampling of the three schools is scheduled to begin the middle of this week.
- In May and June 2005 Wyle re-sampled two private wells used for irrigation by the property owners. One of them was also used for drinking. The well at a home on Hillside Avenue used for drinking showed low levels of perchlorate (3 parts per billion, also referred to as micrograms per liter). No TCE was found in this well. The second well, located on First Street and used only for irrigation, contains low levels of TCE (4.4 parts per billion) and also perchlorate at 9.3 parts per billion. The California public health goal for perchlorate is 6 parts per billion for drinking water. The drinking water standard for TCE is 5 parts per billion. However, this well is not being used for drinking. Soil gas and/or groundwater sampling will be conducted at or near both residences to ensure homes are not being exposed to TCE vapors.
- Soil gas sampling was conducted at six homes near the intersection of Third and Hillside (near Temescal). Results showed TCE concentrations up to 44 parts per billion at four of the homes. Indoor air sampling will be conducted at the four homes to make sure they are not affected by TCE vapors. Sampling is anticipated to begin within the first two weeks of August 2005.
- We sent comments to Wyle on their work plan to conduct a boundary reassessment. The original Boundary Assessment (soil gas and groundwater sampling along parts of the Wyle property boundary) was conducted in 2004 after several years of drought. Our concern is that the recent heavy rains have raised the groundwater level enough to move contamination closer to the surface, and potentially spread it to new areas. In our letter to Wyle, we asked them to resample soil gas, groundwater, and indoor air near the site boundary. The locations are on El Paso road (near where the ephemeral stream exits the Wyle property); and at or near homes toward the northwestern boundary of Wyle in areas where groundwater levels have increased, elevated concentrations of chemicals in groundwater have been detected, and groundwater and/or soil gas concentrations show the potential for an indoor air risk. The sampling locations also include homes near Golden West Lane; homes near the corner of Hillside Avenue and Third Street; and Norco Elementary, Intermediate, and High Schools.

- All demolition activities onsite have been completed. Prior to demolition, buildings were surveyed for asbestos-containing material (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP). We have been requesting the ACM/LBP certification, which shows that ACM and/or LBP found in buildings have been properly removed. We have not received it to date. We will continue to request this information and will place it at the information repositories upon receipt. During demolition, dust control measures were used to ensure no significant amount of dust was generated. Demolition involved only above-ground structures without removal of foundations or significant disturbance of soil. We do not have jurisdiction over the demolition activities, but we asked St. Clair (the property owners) to document the safety measures they use to ensure that on-site workers and the surrounding residents are not impacted by demolition activities. Copies of the contractor's "Safety Management Program" are available at the DTSC Cypress office, and at both information repositories (Corona Public Library and Norco City Hall).
 - Buildings demolished: Areas A1, B, C and D, F2, F3, F4, F5, F5-4, F6, F1C, F9, F12, F10, H2, H3, H4, H5, H8, E, E1, E2, E5, S, I, M1, F5 Area Buildings, J2, and J3.
 - Wood and building debris has been moved offsite.
 - Removal of metal salvage, wood, and building concrete debris is complete.
- Ongoing Remedial Investigation activities:
 - Onsite: Last week, Geophysical Survey (first step of fracture analysis). Collected grab groundwater samples in the onsite northwest area and Area J. Collected soil sampling in Areas A, B, I and J.
 - Offsite: Last week, inspected private well at 998 Third Street. Collected soil gas and (possibly) grab groundwater sample from residences at 771 Third Street and 781 Third Street. Collected water levels at offsite wells (MW-16, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 24).

Sampling planned for this week:

- Onsite: Start quarterly groundwater sampling. Continue geophysical survey (first step of fracture analysis).
- Offsite: Investigate private well at 998 Third Street, including a video log inside the well. Prepare for and collect soil gas and indoor air samples at Norco High, Norco Intermediate, and Norco Elementary Schools. Collect water levels at offsite wells (MW-16, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 24).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- On July 20, project manager Juan Osornio and public participation specialist Kim Foreman attended the Norco City Council meeting. Mr. Osornio briefed the Council on the status of the Wyle Labs investigation.
- On July 21, project manager Juan Osornio, project geologist Theodore Johnson, public participation specialist Kim Foreman, and public participation supervisor Mona Arteaga attended the Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting, gave an

update on the project status, and answered questions and concerns from the CAG members. Mr. Johnson recapped last month's presentation on the fracture analysis.

- A 30-day public comment period for the proposed cleanup (called a Removal Action Workplan) for the northwest area of Wyle, near Golden West Lane, is tentatively scheduled to begin next month (August 2005). The public comment period will include a fact sheet describing the proposed cleanup that will be sent to the mailing list and posted on our website; a paid advertisement in the newspaper; and a public meeting and open house to describe the proposal and take comments. The draft cleanup proposal will be available at the Corona Public Library, Norco City Hall, our office in Cypress, and on our website. This proposed cleanup will be only one small part of the overall cleanup of contamination from the Wyle site. The rest of the cleanup will be done after we finish collecting data to find out the types, amounts, and extent of soil and groundwater contamination from the site.