



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of the  
Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## Fact Sheet, January 2010

# Cleanup Plan for Contaminated Groundwater at the Former Univar USA, Inc. Facility Available for Review

A draft plan to begin cleanup of contaminated groundwater at the former Univar USA, Inc. (Univar) facility located at 1363 South Bonnie Beach Place in the City of Commerce is available for public review and comment. The plan, called a Groundwater Interim Remedial Measures Workplan, describes the activities that will control the groundwater plume below the site and prevent the off-site migration of contaminated groundwater.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC regulates the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste in California. DTSC also oversees soil and groundwater investigations at permitted hazardous waste facilities such as the former Univar facility. If contamination is found during environmental investigations, DTSC then oversees cleanup of these facilities.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Cleanup Activities
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

January 19 to February 19, 2010

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

February 4, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory Church

1316 South Herbert Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90023

The draft Groundwater Interim Remedial Measures Workplan and other related project documents for this site are available for review at the locations listed on page 3 of this fact sheet. Please submit written comments, by February 19, 2010 to:

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Attn: Cynthia Miller, Public Participation Specialist  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by email: [cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov).

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573*



## Why Cleanup Is Necessary

The historical operations at the Univar site resulted in the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which have contaminated soil and groundwater. The VOCs in groundwater are migrating away from the site in the southwest direction. The proposed groundwater interim measure will control the groundwater plume and prevent off-site migration of contaminated groundwater. This, in turn, will protect down gradient groundwater resources and will help facilitate cleanup activities.

## History and Operations at the Site

The Univar Facility (formerly Van Waters & Rogers) began operations in circa 1950 and formally ceased operations in 2002. The Facility was involved in the bulk shipment, packaging and distribution of industrial chemicals and the treatment and storage of hazardous waste. The hazardous waste operations at the site were authorized by a grant of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Interim Status.

## Environmental Investigations

Univar is currently completing RCRA Corrective Action at the site pursuant to a Corrective Action Consent Agreement dated 1995. Univar has completed several phases of investigation in an effort to fully characterize releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents. The investigation has disclosed extensive VOC contamination in soil, soil gas, and groundwater, and is ongoing. The primary contaminants of concern at the site are chlorinated solvents, namely Trichloroethene (TCE) and Tetrachloroethene (PCE). *Chlorinated solvents are cleaning agents commonly used in the metal fabrication and dry cleaning industries.*

The RCRA Corrective Action process allows for cleanup to begin prior to the completion of the investigation when necessary to protect human health and the environment. In 1998, Univar began operating a soil vapor interim measure to control the soil gas plume. The proposed groundwater interim measure will control the

groundwater plume. The groundwater interim measure will prevent further off-site migration of contaminated groundwater while the site investigation is completed.

## Cleanup Activities

The groundwater interim measure involves activities on three (3) distinct areas depicted on the figure found on the back page of this fact sheet. The three (3) areas are described briefly as follows:

- Area 1 is the former underground storage tank area bordered by Noakes Street, South Bonnie Beach Place, the existing warehouse, and the railroad spur.
- Area 2 is the former hazardous waste area bordered by Noakes Street, South Bonnie Beach Place, and the railroad spur.
- Area 3 is the property located at 4200 Noakes Street which is southwest and west of the Univar property.

## Soil and Soil Gas

The existing soil vapor interim measure involves the extraction and treatment of soil gas from seven wells. The groundwater interim measure will extract and treat soil vapor from 17 wells. The Catalytic Oxidation Unit used to treat the soil vapor will be replaced with a larger Thermal Oxidation Unit. *Soil vapor extraction is a system of piping with vacuum-like abilities to pull the contamination into the system where it is treated and then released into the atmosphere as vapor.*

The soil vapor interim measure has successfully removed and treated approximately 50,000 pounds of VOCs from the subsurface; however, a new larger system is set to be installed which will remove additional contaminants not accessible with the existing system.

## Groundwater

The groundwater interim measure will extract and treat groundwater from 14 wells screened in an aquifer located at depth of approximately 100 feet below the ground. The VOCs will be removed from the groundwater in an air-stripper

and the treated groundwater will be discharged to the sanitary sewer. The VOCs removed from the groundwater will be treated along with the soil vapor in the Thermal Oxidation Unit. The Thermal Oxidation Unit will use high temperature to oxidize (combust) the VOCs into less harmful products such as carbon dioxide.

## **California Environmental Quality Act**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has completed an Initial Study and has prepared a draft Negative Declaration. The draft Negative Declaration, which is available for public review and comment, states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health or the environment.

## **Next Steps**

After the public comment period has closed, DTSC will review all comments received and will issue a Response to Comments document. The Response to Comments document will include a formal response to all comments received and will include DTSC's final decision on approval of the groundwater interim measure work plan. The installation and start-up of the groundwater interim measure is scheduled to occur in the middle of 2010.

## **Where to Find the Documents**

The Ground Water Interim Remedial Measures Workplan and other project documents for Univar are available for review at the following locations:

Our Lady of Victory Church  
Rectory Office  
1316 South Herbert Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90023  
Phone: (323) 268-9502

Bristow Public Library  
1466 South McDonnell Avenue  
Commerce, California 90040  
Phone: (323) 265-1787

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Contact: (916) 255-3779

Project documents are also available at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public). To access project documents click on the "Advanced Search" tool on the upper left side of the webpage, enter Site Code 510107 and then click "Get Report."

## **Who to Contact for Information**

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Cynthia Miller  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
1-866-495-5651, press 3 on your keypad twice  
(818) 717-6568  
[cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov)

Ryan Batty  
DTSC Project Manager  
(916) 255-6699  
[rbatty@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rbatty@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573*

*Media Inquiries:*  
Jeanne Garcia  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(818) 717-6573  
[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877 5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Cynthia Miller regarding the Univar Bonnie Beach project.





### LEGEND

- MW-2 GROUND WATER MONITORING WELL
- DPE-8 DUAL-PHASE EXTRACTION WELL
- VW-4B VAPOR MONITORING WELL
- VS-5 VAPOR WELL INSTALLED BY HARDING LAWSON (1996)
- VW-8A NEW VAPOR MONITORING WELLS
- DPE-10 PROPOSED DPE WELL\*

- SITE BOUNDARIES
- AREA BOUNDARIES
- BELOW GROUND CONVEYANCE PIPING
- ABOVE GROUND CONVEYANCE PIPING
- LOWER VADOSE ZONE ESTIMATED VACUUM AREA OF INFLUENCE
- INTERMEDIATE VADOSE ZONE ESTIMATED VACUUM AREA OF INFLUENCE

\* APPROXIMATE LOCATION

ESTIMATED VACUUM AREA OF INFLUENCE BASED ON 2001 SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION TESTING (ENGLAND GEOSYSTEM, DEC 2002)



FIGURE 10

## ESTIMATED VACUUM AREA OF INFLUENCE FOR VAPOR EXTRACTION WELLS AND PROPOSED CONVEYANCE PIPING LOCATIONS

FORMER UNIVAR USA INC. FACILITY  
1363 SOUTH BONNIE BEACH PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



RUBICON  
Engineering Corporation

