

June 2006

Update on the Indoor Air and Soil Gas Investigation for Univar Jillson Street Facility

Dear Community Member:

This is an update on the indoor air and soil gas investigation for the Univar Jillson Street Facility located at 5353 Jillson Street, Commerce, California.

A report on the results of the November 2005 indoor air and soil gas sampling study conducted in and around homes near the former Univar Jillson Street Facility was recently completed. The findings of the sampling conducted in November of 2005 are detailed in the Indoor Air Sampling and Analysis Report (Revision 0) is now available for public viewing at the City of Commerce Central and Atlantic Branch libraries.

Univar USA Inc. submitted the report dated January 31, 2006 to the Department of Substances Control (DTSC) for review and acceptance. DTSC reviewed the report to determine if the sampling data taken was sufficient to meet the quality objectives in the approved Indoor Air Sampling and Analysis Plan (Revision 2), dated August 24, 2005. After a thorough analysis, DTSC's review concluded that the sampling of the indoor air, outdoor air, and soil gas data taken in November 2005, did not fully meet the approved sampling plan objectives. As a result, DTSC requested changes in future sampling procedures along with added sampling events to ensure the quality of the data. On March 14, 2006, DTSC accepted the report as being complete.

The indoor air and ambient (outdoor) sampling results indicate that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found in the outdoor air and the indoor air of residential homes. Concentrations of the indoor air do not pose any short-term health concerns due to the low levels seen. The general results indicate that there is a reduction in the VOC levels as compared to the samples taken in September 2004.

The health concerns of VOCs detected in the study are for potential long-term increases in cancer risk from long-term exposure to the chemicals. The estimated potential cancer risk due to the measured levels of VOCs is in the range of one-in-a-million and 100 in-a-million, or possibly less, which is within the U.S. EPA acceptable risk range. These risks are also comparable to the risks associated with concentrations of other VOCs found in outdoor air in the Los Angeles area. Also, DTSC procedures for estimating risk are conservative. In cases of potential residential exposure, DTSC is very conservative in managing these estimated risks.

There are many potential sources of VOCs including the underground vapor plume associated with the nearby former Univar facility, cleaning chemicals, hobby paints and glues, clothes from some dry cleaners, outdoor air, and other possible sources. VOC contaminants released from the Univar facility were found in the subsurface soil. DTSC's goal is to ensure the safety of residents from exposure to vapors originating from the Univar facility VOC contaminants.

The soil gas sampling was conducted to determine the underground contaminant concentrations adjacent to the residential structures. These concentrations would be

compared to the indoor air samples to find a possible link to the underground soil gas. The link between the indoor air and the soil gas could not be determined due to field errors associated with the soil gas samples, which meant the soil gas data was not usable. DTSC has coordinated with Univar and their consultants to revise the sampling and analysis procedures to insure that the next round of sampling will meet all of the sampling goals and result in fully useable data.

DTSC will continue with further investigation of the sources of contaminants found in the indoor air of the residential homes. Additional data must be collected and a minimum of two additional sampling events will be required (one in the warm season and one in the cold season). The additional sampling will be conducted to determine if the indoor air concentrations found are a result of contaminants released from the Univar facility.

Follow-up sampling may consist of all or some of the following sampling techniques: additional indoor air samples, crawl space samples and soil-gas sampling within yards. DTSC is currently working with Univar to determine when the additional sampling will be conducted. The additional sampling will be similar to what was done during the last investigation and residents will be contacted for permission and availability to begin testing.

If you would like more information or have questions on the Univar Jillson Site Investigation or community outreach activities, please contact either Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2846 or me at (916) 255-3578
Para información en español, favor de llamar a Sra. Yolanda Garza, Jefa de la Unidad de Permisos y Acciones Correctivas en el Sur de California del DTSC, al (818) 551-2955.