Department of Toxic Substances Control

Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.

State of California

California Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, February 2006

FMC CORPORATION, CENTRAL PLANT AREA 1125 COLEMAN AVE., SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

PREFERRED REMEDY SELECTION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is accepting public comment on the Preferred Remedy Selection to address soil and groundwater contamination at the Central Plant Area of the FMC Corporation Facility (Facility). DTSC is also accepting public comment on the Proposed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Negative Declaration. The former manufacturing Facility is located at 1125 Coleman Avenue in San Jose, California in Santa Clara County. This fact sheet contains information concerning the Facility background, Corrective Action History, the Preferred Remedy Selection, Proposed CEQA Negative Declaration, information repositories, DTSC contacts and mailing list information.

SITE HISTORY

The Facility, was purchased from the City of San Jose in 1946. Prior to that time, the land was reportedly used for agricultural purposes. Most of FMC's operations since 1951 were dedicated to the design, production, and testing of military tracked vehicles under United States Department of Defense contracts. Manufacturing operations conducted included fabrication of metal parts, electroplating, chemical conversion coating, metal finishing, welding, painting, and parts assembly. Potentially hazardous materials

Public Comment Period

The public comment period begins on Friday, February 24, 2006 and ends on Monday, April 10, 2006. Written comments must be postmarked by or e-mailed by Monday, April 10, 2006 and sent to:

Andrew Berna-Hicks, Project Manager
DTSC, Berkeley Office
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
abernahi@dtsc.ca.gov

Before making a final determination on the Preferred Remedy Selection and Proposed Negative Declaration, DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments. The DTSC Response to Comments will be sent to all individuals who submitted comments or those who request a copy. A copy will also be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

managed at the Facility included various oils, coolants, lubricants, solvents, paints, acids, alkalis, and metals used in manufacturing processes. Diesel and gasoline fuel were also stored and dispensed in the Central Plant Area for testing engines and road testing the vehicles. These operations included the use of various solutions, metals, fuel mixtures and oils, paints, and solvents (predominantly **trichloroethylene [TCE]** and **1,1,1-trichloroethane [1,1,1-TCA].** In 1997, FMC ceased manufacturing operations in the Central Plant Area.

The Central Plant Area property is in the process of being transferred to the City of San Jose which plans to use the site for commercial and industrial operations related to the San Jose International Airport. Remediation of contaminated groundwater, however, shall remain the responsibility of the FMC Corporation.

SITE BACKGROUND

The 25-acre Central Plant Area is located in the City of San Jose, south of the San Francisco Bay and east of the City of San Jose/City of Santa Clara border. To the north is Coleman Avenue, to the west is the Test Track Area (formerly owned by FMC and sold to the City of San Jose), to the south is the Union Pacific Railroad property, and to the east is FMC's former Plant 7 Area currently owned by Arcadia. The Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport is located across Coleman Avenue north of the Central Plant Area.

Surface Water – No surface water bodies are located in the Central Plant Area. The nearest surface water is the Guadalupe River, located approximately one mile north of the site.

Groundwater and Soil – The site is located in the Santa Clara Valley Basin. Soils beneath the site are comprised of clays and sand interspersed with gravel channels.

The water table begins at 5 to 7 feet below ground surface. Groundwater flow is northward toward Coleman Avenue. Four zones of groundwater defined by various thicknesses of soil types (sand, clay, gravel, etc.) underlay the site. These zones have varying characteristics including rate of flow.

Groundwater and soil at various locations within the site are contaminated mainly with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A groundwater extraction and treatment system is in operation at the northern property boundary to hydraulically contain groundwater contaminants on-site from migrating off-site. The extracted groundwater is treated with granular activated carbon, and the treated groundwater is discharged to the City of San Jose storm drain under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

CORRECTIVE ACTION HISTORY

In 1992 DTSC completed a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) of the Facility. The RFA concluded that further site characterization was required. DTSC and FMC entered into a Corrective Action Consent Agreement on January 2, 1996 that specified investigation and reporting requirements. On July 29, 2005 DTSC approved the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) phase of corrective action activities that fully characterized the extent of contamination in soil, soil gas, and groundwater at the Central Plant Area. The RFI also included an indoor air human health risk assessment that evaluated potential impacts on occupants of any future buildings that may be built on the site.

From October 1998 to July 2002 FMC implemented interim corrective measures to reduce soil and groundwater contamination at the site. These interim measures included the following:

- Installation of groundwater extraction wells at the northern boundary to prevent off-site migration of groundwater contaminated with halogenated VOCs, primarily TCE and 1,1,1-TCA.

- Installation of a dual-phase extraction and treatment system to reduce VOCs in shallow soils and groundwater.

- Excavation of shallow soils contaminated with metals and petroleum hydrocarbons.

- Use of chemical oxidation technology by injecting hydrogen peroxide into soils and groundwater to break down VOCs and diesel fuel hydrocarbons.

The groundwater extraction wells are still in operation.

CORRECTIVE ACTION REMEDY SELECTION

In September of 2005 FMC submitted to DTSC a Corrective Measures Study. This report evaluated remediation alternatives and recommended specific measures to address the presence of hazardous constituents in groundwater. This evaluation of remediation alternatives considered the following criteria:

1. Protection of human health and the environment. For an alternative to be selected it must prevent site contamination from threatening public health and the environment.

2. Short term effectiveness. The ability to be effective in dealing with Site contamination during initial implementation examined.

3. Long term effectiveness. This examines how effective the alternative will be eliminating potential exposure to Site contamination over the long term after initial implementation.

4. Implementability. This looks at the ability to implement the proposed alternative.

5. Cost. Cost is examined after the first four criteria are met. If alternatives are equally protective then cost may determine which one is finally chosen.

DTSC has evaluated the CMS Report and proposes to approve the preferred remediation measures. The remediation preferred for groundwater contamination consists of the continued extraction of groundwater from existing wells at the northern property boundary. The extracted groundwater would continue to be treated in an on-site activated carbon treatment system to remove VOCs. Treated groundwater would be discharged to a storm drain under an NPDES permit issued by the RWQCB.

Continued monitoring of the groundwater will indicate if contaminants are being contained within the site boundaries and whether **natural attenuation,** along with the pump and treat operations, are reducing contamination levels.

The Facility will be restricted to commercial and/or industrial activities. Soils have been remediated to levels considered safe by DTSC for construction workers, thus no further remediation of soils will be required. These removed soils were replaced with clean imported soils.

As part of the site remedy, DTSC, FMC and the land owner shall enter into a Land Use Covenant that would require continuation of groundwater extraction and treatment; ban the use of groundwater for drinking or irrigation purposes; require a soil management plan for soil excavation; limit land use to commercial and/or industrial activities; require all contaminated soils to be covered; require specific sub-areas of the site (approximately 5.5 acres out of the total 25 acres) to include vapor intrusion mitigation measures for any future buildings; and prohibit the construction of residences, schools, hospitals, or day-care centers.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Copies of the Corrective Measures Study Report, the CEQA Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration, Statement of Basis, and other Facility related documents are available for public review at the following information repositories:

Dr. Martin Luther King Public Library
180 West San Carlos Street
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 808-2000

The full administrative record is available for public review at:

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800

You can also find site related documents at:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/FMC_Corporation_SanJose.cfm

INFORMATION CONTACTS

If you would like more information please contact:

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ANUNCIO

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak to Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649.

ARE YOU ON THE DTSC MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the Allen Ranch Burn Piles, please fill out the information below and mail back to Randy Sturgeon, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Please print name and address clearly.
Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: Fax: E-mail:

❑ Please take me off the mailing list.
Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.