



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, August 2006

Proposed Remedies for Groundwater at the Former Witco Corporation Site

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announces a 45-day public comment period and a public meeting/hearing for the final cleanup at the former Witco Corporation Facility (Site). The Site is located at 850 Morton Avenue and 3655 Collins Avenue, Richmond, California. The proposed cleanup activities will clean up the remaining contamination [(tetramethyl-tetrahydrofuran (TMTHF) and benzene)] in the groundwater.

In 1976, the President of the United States signed into law the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This law regulates the handling, managing and disposing of hazardous waste. DTSC requires owners and operators of permitted facilities under RCRA to clean up contamination resulting from present and past practices, including those of previous owners of the facility. These clean up activities are known as corrective action. A corrective measure study (CMS) identifies and evaluates possible contamination and proposes cleanup of the contamination. This RCRA process was completed at the Witco Corporation Facility for the proposed groundwater cleanup.

DTSC has prepared this fact sheet to summarize the proposed groundwater cleanup at the Site. There are several documents that are available for public review and comment that describe the technical information for the proposed groundwater cleanup. They are:

- Corrective Measure Study Report (CMS)
- Land Use Covenant Implementation and Enforcement Plan
- California Environmental quality Act (CEQA) – Notice of Exemption (NOE)

These documents along with other site-related documents are available at the information repositories listed on Page 5 of this fact sheet.

Public Comment Period August 11, 2006 to September 26, 2006

DTSC will hold a 45-day public comment period for the proposed groundwater remedies at the former Witco Corporation Facility located in Richmond, California. We will consider and respond to all written public comments before making a final decision on the Proposed Remedies. The Public Comment period is from **August 11, 2006 to September 26, 2006**. Please send comments postmarked by September 26, 2006 to Cherry Padilla, DTSC Project Manager, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710 or e-mail her at cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov.

Public Meeting/Public Hearing Tuesday, September 12, 2006

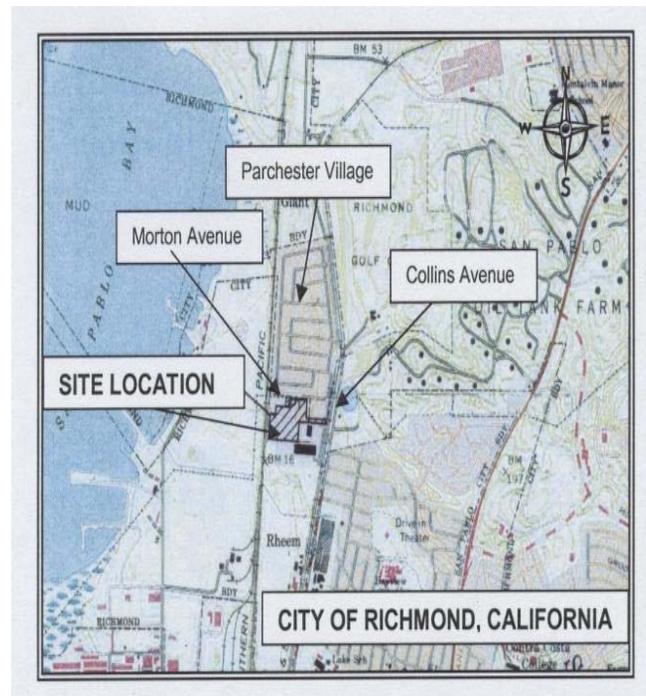
DTSC will hold a **Public Meeting on September 12, 2006 at 6:00 pm** at the Parchester Community Center, 900 Williams Drive, Richmond, California. A **Public Hearing will follow at the same location at 7:00 pm**. For information about public participation or the public meeting/hearing, please contact Nancy Cook at (510) 540-3923 or e-mail her at ncook@dtsc.ca.gov. Additional information can be found at our website, www.dtsc.ca.gov.



Site Location

The Site occupies an eight acre parcel of land located in an industrial area with a nearby residential area, known as Parchester Village (see Site map on this page). Part of the Site is bordered by Reaction Products, Inc. to the north, Southern Pacific Railroad right-of way to the west, former Atlas Foundry and Beazer Property to the east and former Dennison Property to the south. The former Breuner Property is located west and adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The area is zoned for light industrial activities.

The Site was sold to Durkee Properties, LLC in 1999, with Chemtura, the Witco's successor, retaining the responsibility to clean up the site. In 2001, the Site was redeveloped (see photo below). The southern portion of the property was paved and a new warehouse was constructed. The northeast portion of the site remains unpaved.



Site Location Map

Regulatory History

The former Witco Corporation facility was originally built in 1957 by U.S. Peroxygen Corporation. From 1965 to 1989, the facility was owned and operated by Witco Corporation. Chemicals such as peroxyesters, a product used in the production of plastics, and benzoyl peroxide paste, a product used in cosmetic facial cream were manufactured at the facility. The manufacturing processes generated hazardous wastes which were managed in containers, tanks, and ponds. In 1981 the facility was issued a temporary operating permit, for its operation of hazardous waste storage and treatment.

From 1967 to 1984, Witco Corporation stored wastewater in two unlined ponds, identified as Ponds 1 and 2 (see location map on page 6), and treated the wastewater before being discharged into an approved wastewater treatment plant. In 1986, the facility began closure of Ponds 1 and 2 by removing wastewater from the ponds. The sludge left in the ponds was dried and 7-9 feet of soil was removed. The excavation pits were backfilled with clean soil and covered with layers of gravel, soil and clay caps.

In 1987, the Department of Health Services approved the closure of the two ponds and

required Witco Corporation to obtain a Post-Closure Permit because contaminants from the ponds had seeped into the groundwater. In 1993 DTSC issued a Post-Closure Permit and required Witco Corporation to monitor the groundwater and maintain the cap. Corrective actions were implemented to clean up hazardous contaminants released from the former Ponds 1 and 2.

The Post-Closure Permit expired in 1998. In 1999, DTSC and Witco Corporation entered into a Consent Order which required the facility to complete corrective action process: assessment, investigation and remediation.

DTSC Corrective Action Process

Assessment and Investigation

In 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency conducted an environmental investigation called a RCRA facility assessment. During the assessment, 46 locations were identified where hazardous materials may have been released. It was recommended that further soil and groundwater investigations take place at the Site.

In 1993, DTSC approved the Final RCRA facility investigation workplan. The soil and groundwater samples were then analyzed for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals. The final investigation report was submitted in 1995 and sampling results showed that TMTHF and benzene were the main contaminants which resulted from the manufacturing processes at the Site.

Interim Measures

In 1993, DTSC approved the plan to close all areas where hazardous materials were used. The performance standards used for clean closure are no detection of chemicals or acceptable levels for residential use. All contaminated soils were removed and transported to a licensed disposal facility. In 1994, DTSC certified the clean closure of the Site with the exception of Ponds 1 and 2.

From June 1990 through July 1999, DTSC oversaw the cleanup of groundwater through a groundwater pump and treatment system. This

activity was conducted using six wells around Ponds 1 and 2. During this 9-year period, eight million gallons of groundwater were pumped and treated, removing 4.3 gallons of TMTHF.

Risk Assessment

In 2005, DTSC approved the Health Risk Assessment (HRA). All organic chemicals in the groundwater and wet soil below Ponds 1 & 2 were evaluated to determine if there was a risk to public health and the environment.

Exposure to chemicals was analyzed from eating the soil, inhaling dust particles, contact on the skin, and inhaling vapors from indoor air. The assessment results showed that health risks exist only if there is direct contact to soil 7 feet below ground surface or there is direct contact to groundwater 10 feet below ground surface.

Corrective Measure Study (CMS)

DTSC has determined that no further action is needed for soil at 1 to 7 feet below ground surface at the Site.

In 2003, the ground-water levels of TMTHF were 2,900 ppb, which exceeded the health risk based level of 2,300 ppb, established by DTSC. Benzene was detected at 29 ppb, which exceeded DTSC health risk based goal of 1 ppb. To further cleanup the remaining TMTHF and benzene in the groundwater at the Site, DTSC required Witco Corporation to conduct a Corrective Measure Study (CMS) and clean up the Site.

A draft CMS Report dated May 2005 was submitted to DTSC to evaluate the corrective measure alternatives for a designated area between the former Ponds 1 and 2 (see Target Cleanup Area map on page 6).

Corrective Measure Alternatives

The Corrective Measures Study report described four potential cleanup alternatives for the groundwater in the designated area between former Ponds 1 and 2.

The four cleanup alternatives are as follows:

1. No action - no action evaluates what the potential risks would be if the Site is left in its current state.

2. Natural attenuation with supplemental groundwater extraction – Allows benzene to break down naturally by bacteria present in the water. Uses a groundwater pump and treatment system to clean up the TMTHF.
3. Dual-phase vapor extraction – Allows benzene to break down naturally by bacteria present in the water. Uses special pipes placed in the soil that slowly extract vapors from the groundwater and the wet soil (located 7 feet below ground surface under Ponds 1 & 2). Vapors are treated with carbon absorption at the Site.
4. Excavation of wet soil with Pump and Treatment System – Removes wet soil that may contain TMTHF and benzene, with disposal to a licensed facility. Uses additional groundwater pump and treatment system to remove TMTHF.

These cleanup alternatives were evaluated based on protection of human health, the environment, waste management requirements, implementability and cost.

Proposed Remedies for Groundwater

DTSC recommends Alternative #3 along with a Land Use Covenant and annual site inspections as the final remedies to clean up the wet soil and groundwater at the Site. The proposed remedies consist of the following:

- Dual Phase vapor extraction for 12 to 18 months at a designated area between former Ponds 1 and 2. Dual phase extraction relies on the use of relatively short-term vapor and groundwater pump and treatment to remove contaminants from the wet soil and groundwater. Under this method, the extracted groundwater will be

treated and discharged to an approved sanitary sewer plant. The extracted vapors will be treated with carbon absorption at the Site.

- Groundwater sampling to confirm that TMTHF levels are below the cleanup goal of 2300 ppb.
- Monitoring the natural breakdown of benzene to verify that it has decreased below the cleanup goal of 1 ppb.
- Monitoring the site for an additional five years to confirm that cleanup goals have been reached.
- The current landowner will enter into a Land Use Covenant with DTSC to have an annual inspection of the Site to ensure that future land use remains industrial and that no drinking water wells are installed on the Site.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve the Proposed Remedies, we will review, consider and respond to the comments received during the public comment period.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project under the provisions of CEQA Guideline section 15330. This document will be filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. It is DTSC's finding that the proposed groundwater remedies at the Site will not have an impact on the environment. Instead, it will help clean up the Site and will result in long-term reduction in concentrations of residual contaminants in groundwater.

Information Repositories

The Corrective Measure Study Report dated May 26, 2005, the Statement of Basis document, the Land Use Covenant and Implementation Plan and the Proposed Notice of Exemption are available for review at the following established information repositories:

The Richmond Main Library
Reference Desk
325 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, California 94804
(510) 620-6561

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
(please call for appointment)

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact Nancy Cook at (510) 540-3923 regarding the Former Witco Corporation Facility in Richmond, California.

For More Information

For more information about the Site, the cleanup process and related documents please contact:

Cherry Padilla
DTSC Project Manager
(510) 540-3967
e-mail cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process please contact:

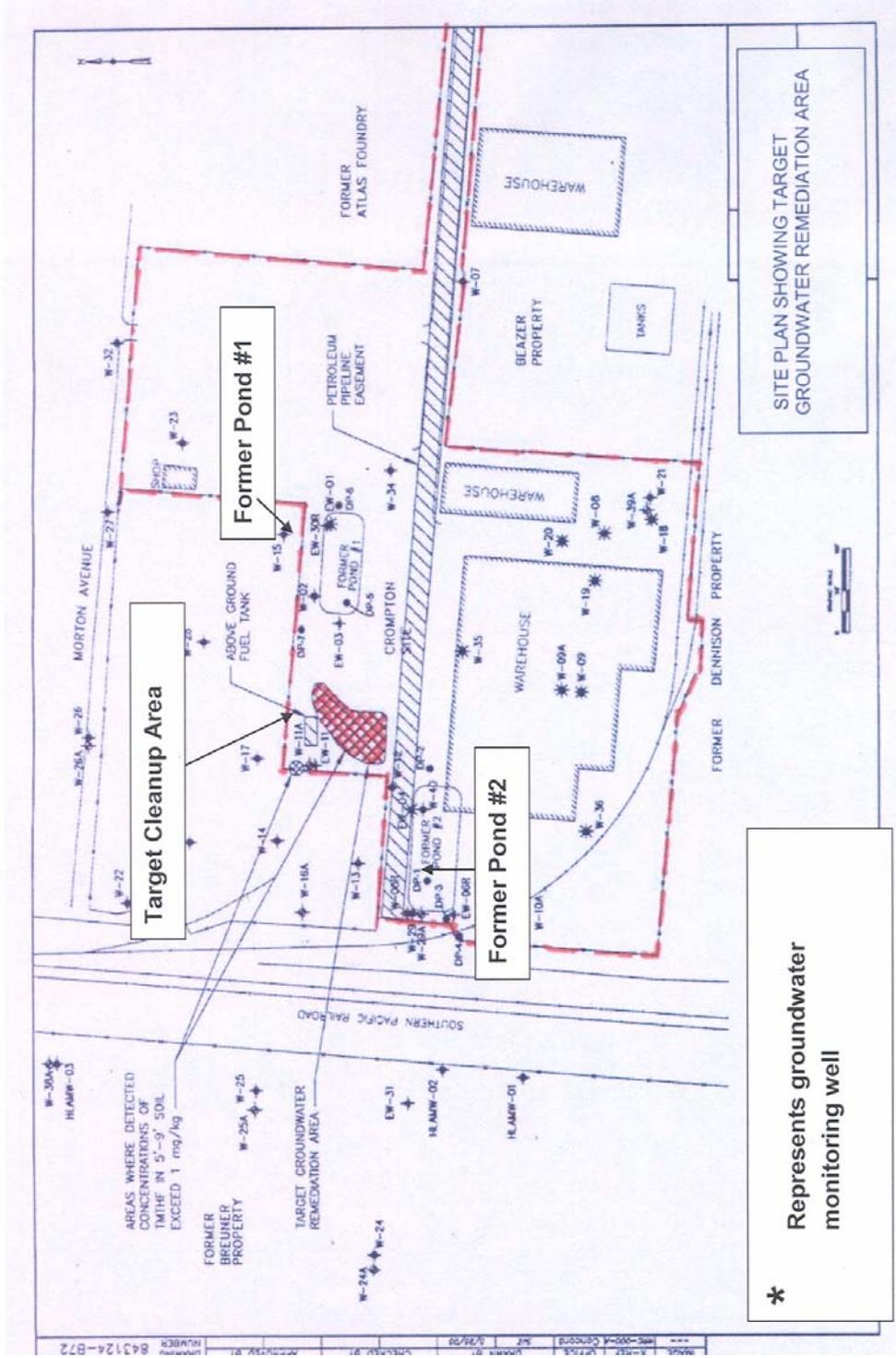
Nancy Cook
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(510) 540-3923
e-mail ncook@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions please contact:

Angela Blanchette
DTSC Public Participation
(510) 540-3732
e-mail ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

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



Location Map of Target Cleanup Area

SITE PLAN SHOWING TARGET GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION AREA

* Represents groundwater monitoring well