

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

SKYWAY SUBDIVISION GROUNDWATER PLUME UPDATE

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is distributing this fact sheet to update the community about the investigation and cleanup efforts occurring for the Skyway Subdivision Groundwater Plume (plume) in southwest Chico, California 95928. The groundwater in the plume is contaminated with chlorinated solvents, primarily trichloroethylene (TCE). Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) has also been detected at low levels in limited portions of the plume.

DTSC is overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the contaminated groundwater in the plume. The project is currently near the end of the Remedial Investigation (RI) stage, which involves conducting investigations to learn more about the source of contamination, the contamination levels in the groundwater, and the size of the plume. The next stage of the project will be the Feasibility Study, during which DTSC will focus on determining the best remedy for the contamination. Prior to approving a final remedy, DTSC will provide outreach to solicit public comments.

In order to minimize potential threats of exposure, early in the project, many domestic water well users within the contamination plume area were connected to California Water Services Company (Cal Water) or provided treatment for their water. In February 2016, the DTSC circulated a survey for the Skyway Subdivision and surrounding residents in Chico. The purpose of the survey was to verify these measures remain effective. DTSC consider both the early connection to CalWater in 2008/2009 or continued connection to water treatment systems for impacted residences to be protective. DTSC recommends that these connections are maintained and will proceed under the assumption these connections remain active unless otherwise informed.

DTSC CONTACTS



The community is encouraged to participate in DTSC's cleanup efforts for the Site. RI groundwater sampling results are available for the public and have been placed in the information repositories listed on page 3 of this fact sheet.

If you have questions about the Skyway Subdivision Groundwater Plume, please contact:

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Contamination levels have been monitored since 2005 and have decreased. In 2015, the highest level of TCE detected in groundwater was 17 parts per billion (ppb), while the highest level of PCE detected in groundwater was 8.2 ppb. The maximum concentration allowed in public drinking water (or maximum contaminant level (MCL)) set by the State of California for both TCE and PCE is 5 ppb.

PLUME HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Groundwater contamination in the plume was first discovered in November 2003 during residential water well sampling conducted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Groundwater in the vicinity was found to be contaminated with chlorinated solvents, primarily TCE. Further investigations revealed that contamination came from the former Hecker/CE Building Products facility at 37 Speedway Avenue, which until 1976 was the site of an aluminum door manufacturer that used a vapor degreaser to clean parts. The degreaser contained the solvent TCE, a commonly used industrial cleaner.

In March 2004, DTSC began a bottled water program providing clean water to the community to protect the residents within and near the Skyway Subdivision from exposure to contamination. After taking over as the lead agency for groundwater cleanup at the Site, DTSC then provided 63 homes with carbon treatment systems to filter out contamination from residential well water. Further sampling that was conducted on residential wells in the Skyway Subdivision indicated that the carbon treatment systems were successful in filtering out the contamination from the well water.

In 2007, DTSC identified ABB as the successor of Hecker/CE Building Products. Since 2007, ABB has been the party addressing environmental impacts from historical manufacturing operations at the former Hecker/CE Building Products facility and in the resulting plume.

SKYWAY SUBDIVISION WATER CONNECTIONS

During community interviews with the Skyway Subdivision residents conducted in 2007, the vast majority of community members expressed a desire to have treated water delivered to their homes. During a DTSC public meeting held in January 2008, the community was informed that ABB planned to provide Cal Water hook ups for many homes impacted by the plume at no cost to the residents. The plan was well received by the public. Construction for the water service expansion began in August 2008 and was completed in January 2009. The map on page 4 shows the ABB installed water line locations. Generally, homes that were connected to Cal Water were within the area where groundwater concentrations have been detected at levels greater than drinking water standards. DTSC recommends that these connections to Cal Water are maintained and will proceed under the assumption these connections remain active unless otherwise informed.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The RI has been conducted in multiple phases from 2005 through 2015. A total of 54 groundwater monitoring wells are currently sampled by ABB at the former manufacturing facility and up to two miles downgradient. ABB has also collected water samples from private wells up to four miles downgradient of the former manufacturing facility. Soil gas and indoor air samples have also been collected by ABB at the former manufacturing facility.

Groundwater sampling has confirmed that contaminated groundwater is located in the immediate area of the former manufacturing facility and extends approximately three miles southwest. This is consistent with the direction that regional groundwater moves. The area of groundwater with contamination greater than drinking water standards extends about one mile from the former manufacturing facility and is shown on Page 4. Monitoring has shown that contamination has remained stable or declined since monitoring began.



ABB and DTSC will continue to monitor many of these wells and the extent of groundwater contamination over time.

Summary of Contamination Data

Contaminant	2005 Maximum Concentrations Detected	Current 2015 Maximum Concentration Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level
TCE	32 ppb	17 ppb	5 ppb
PCE	11 ppb	8.2 ppb	5 ppb

ppb = parts per billion

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) = health protective drinking water standards to be met by public water systems

NEXT STEPS IN THE CLEANUP PROCESS

The RI is nearly complete. Results of the remedial investigation will be presented in the RI report, scheduled for spring 2016. Once the RI is approved by DTSC, ABB will conduct a human health risk assessment (HHRA) to determine the appropriate cleanup levels for the plume and conduct a Feasibility Study that will identify and evaluate a variety of cleanup alternatives for the former manufacturing facility and plume. Subsequently, a Remedial Action Plan will be developed as a guide for cleanup. There will be an opportunity for the public to provide input on the plan. DTSC will consider and respond to public comments before making a final decision.

INFORMATION REPOSTORIES

Butte County Library, Chico Branch
1108 Sherman Avenue
Chico, California 95925
530-891-2762; Call for hours

DTSC Sacramento Regional Office - File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
916-255-3758; (Please call for an appointment)

Online at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>

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Project documents, including RI reports and fact sheets are available for public review at the following repositories:

Online at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>



