



Cleanup Proposal for Golden West Lane Area Near Wyle Laboratories Site — Norco, California

We invite you to review and comment on a proposal to remove chemical vapors from the soil in the Golden West Lane neighborhood on the northwest border of the Wyle Laboratories (Wyle) site. These chemical vapors are mostly from TCE (trichloroethene) in groundwater, which has moved from the site into the surrounding area. The vapors could potentially pose a risk to area residents if they move up through the soil into the homes. So far we have found only one home with significant levels of TCE vapors inside. (Wyle has installed a ventilation system at this home, which is successfully clearing out the indoor air vapors.) The goal of the proposed cleanup is to prevent potential exposure of nearby residents to TCE vapors from groundwater.

Public Comment Period August 12, 2005 – September 12, 2005

The cleanup proposal (called a draft Removal Action Workplan, or RAW) for the Golden West Lane area is available for public comment from August 12 through September 12, 2005.

The draft RAW and other documents related to the Wyle site are available at the locations listed on page 4 of this fact sheet. Please send your written comments, postmarked or emailed by September 12, 2005, to: Mr. Juan Osornio, DTSC, 5796 Corporate Ave., Cypress, CA 90630; email: JOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov

Public Meeting - August 23, 2005

We are holding an open house and public meeting to explain the cleanup proposal, answer questions, and take written and oral comments. **Time:** Open house 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m. **Location:** Corona-Norco Unified School District, 2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, Learning Center South meeting room.

For information on accessibility (wheelchair ramps, etc.) or to request a reasonable accommodation such as translation or sign language interpretation, please call Kim Foreman at (714) 484-5324 at least one week in advance of the meeting.



This fact sheet describes the proposed action and how to submit comments. In addition, we have included a brief description of other recent activities at the site (see page 3).

Wyle Labs is located at 1841 Hillside Avenue in Norco, California. It is a 429-acre former defense and aerospace testing facility that operated on the site from the late 1950s until 2004. Wyle's activities resulted in the release of hazardous chemicals into the soil and groundwater on the site. Wyle stopped operations and closed in 2004.

The cleanup proposal, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), is designed to address the soil vapor in the Golden West Lane neighborhood. The draft RAW is offered for public review and comment from August 12 through September 12, and will be discussed at the open house and public meeting scheduled for August 23, 2005. (See the box on page 1.)

This proposed action in the northwest area is only one small part of the overall cleanup of the Wyle site. We will work with Wyle to prepare a comprehensive cleanup proposal for soil and groundwater after we finish collecting data to find out the types, amounts, and extent of contamination from the site. Extensive testing of soil, soil gas, and groundwater both on and offsite is ongoing.

Our agency is the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and cleanup of this site. Wyle is paying for the investigation and cleanup work, which is performed by their contractors with our oversight.

Soil vapor extraction system proposed

The draft RAW proposes to install a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system to pull the TCE vapors out of the soil. Soil gas monitoring would be used to make sure the system is effectively reducing the TCE vapors.

Soil vapor extraction consists of a series of wells connected by underground pipes. These are in turn connected to a treatment system that includes a vacuum unit to pull the vapors from the soil. The vapors are passed through canisters filled with

carbon granules to remove the TCE. The spent carbon is taken away to a permitted hazardous waste facility and replaced with clean carbon as needed. The treated air is discharged to the atmosphere under a permit from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The AQMD permit requires the discharged air to meet strict air quality standards to minimize any potential health risk.

The extraction and monitoring wells would be two inches across, sealed, and even with the ground surface. If the RAW is approved, a total of seven extraction wells would be placed in the yards of three homes on Golden West. Two more wells would be placed in the street. Four monitoring wells would be placed at these same three homes, and two more on the street. Access to these private properties to install the wells and piping would require written permission from the homeowners. Piping between the wells would be buried three feet below the surface.

The vacuum and treatment units would be on the Wyle property, next to Golden West Lane. The extraction system would operate on a 24-hour basis. The site would be inspected weekly to monitor performance.

We prepared a Notice of Exemption for the draft RAW. This is our finding that the proposed cleanup actions (installing the wells and piping, running the treatment system, etc.) would **not** have a significant impact on the surrounding community, as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Proposed cleanup is interim measure

We are proposing this interim measure to quickly address the soil vapor problem in the northwest area. Exposure to high levels of TCE in indoor air may result in an increased risk of cancer when breathed continuously over many years (generally more than 20 years). Indoor air tests have detected significant levels of TCE in only one home, as mentioned above. However, we want to prevent the potential for any exposure to residents.

Initially, we anticipate that this soil vapor extraction system will be operated for 12 months. At the end of this period we will evaluate the need to extend the operation of the system.

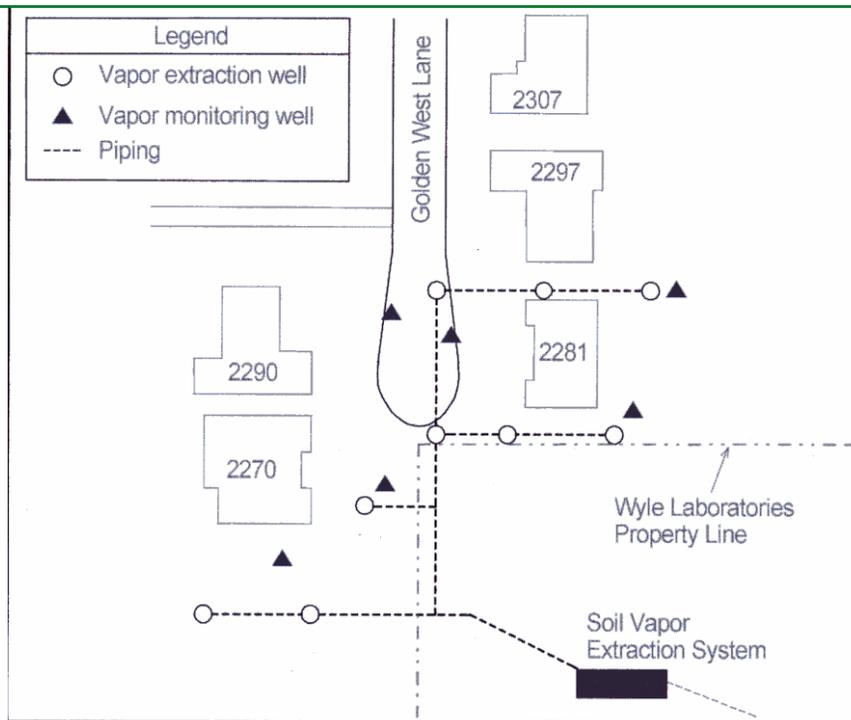


Diagram of the proposed soil vapor extraction system showing the locations of the wells, piping, and treatment unit

Additional news and recent site activities

Soil gas and groundwater in northwest area

Beginning in February 2004, we sampled the groundwater and soil gas around the boundary of the Wyle property to find where chemicals might be moving offsite. TCE was found near the area of Golden West Lane. Follow-up sampling in that neighborhood found TCE, perchlorate, and the industrial chemical NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine) in the groundwater. TCE vapors were found in the soil gas and inside one home. (Perchlorate is found only in groundwater, not in soil gas.)

We have continued sampling outward from Golden West Lane to see how far the contamination has spread. These tests include soil, soil gas, and groundwater. In April through June 2005, soil gas samples were collected near the foundations of six residences at the intersection of Hillside Avenue and Third Street (near Temescal). We found elevated levels of TCE at four of the six homes. We plan to do indoor air sampling at these four homes in early August 2005 to make sure they are not affected by the indoor TCE vapors.

Norco Elementary, Intermediate, and High Schools

Wyle conducted soil gas and indoor air sampling at the three schools near the Wyle site (Norco Elementary, Norco Intermediate, and Norco High School). This sampling is designed to address community concerns and to find out if contaminants are impacting these schools. Sampling at the schools was conducted in the last week of July 2005. We are waiting for the lab results.

Private wells

Earlier this year Wyle sampled two private wells used for irrigation by the property owners. One of them was also used for drinking. The well at a home on Hillside Avenue, which was used for drinking, showed low levels of perchlorate (3 parts per billion, also referred to as micrograms per liter). No TCE was detected. The second well, located on First Street and used only for irrigation, contains low levels of TCE (4.4 parts per billion) and perchlorate at 9.3 parts per billion. As a precautionary measure, we recommended that these well owners not use the water from the wells until they have been fully evaluated. We also requested soil gas and/or

groundwater sampling at or near both homes to ensure the residents are not being exposed to TCE vapors from the soil.

The State of California Drinking Water Standard is 5 parts per billion for TCE. The California Department of Health Services Action Level for perchlorate in drinking water is 6 parts per billion. (The well containing the TCE and perchlorate above the drinking water standards is not used for drinking.)

The well sampling is part of an effort to determine whether chemicals from Wyle have affected private wells near the site.

We will discuss these and other recent sampling results as well as the soil vapor cleanup proposal at the August 23 meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information or have questions on the draft RAW or other Wyle site issues, please contact:

DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Kim Foreman, (714) 484-5324
or email KForeman@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Project Manager
Jose Osornio, (714) 484-5498
or email JOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, (818) 551-2176
or email JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Para informacion en Espanol, favor de llamar a Leticia Hernández al número (714) 484-5488.

For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The draft RAW and other site documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Corona Library
650 South Main Street
Corona, CA
(951) 736-2381

Norco City Hall
Facilities Division
2870 Clark Avenue
Norco, CA
(951) 735-3900

DTSC File Room: Julie Johnson
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA
(714) 484-5337
Please call to make an appointment.

Some documents, including the draft RAW, are also available on our website: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Wyle_Laboratories/index.html

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (888) 877-5378 to reach Public Participation Specialist Kim Foreman at (714) 484-5324.