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, May 2007

Wyle Labs Investigation Update

This fact sheet updates you on the continuing investigation and cleanup of the former Wyle Laboratories (Wyle Labs) in Norco, California. The 429-acre site (site) is located at 1841 Hillside Avenue and is a former defense and aerospace testing facility that operated from the late 1950s until 2004. The goal of our investigation is to identify and clean up chemical contamination that occurred due to Wyle's past operations. The mission of our Agency is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the investigation and cleanup of sites potentially contaminated with hazardous substances. The goal of this investigation at Wyle Labs is to identify and clean up hazardous substance releases.

Inside this fact sheet you will find more detailed information on the:

- Site history
- Sampling results at Norco High School's Science Building
- Sampling results at 27 homes north and west of Wyle Labs
- Update of ongoing remedial investigation
- Status of the onsite groundwater cleanup technology being tested
- Groundwater flow testing
- Ongoing groundwater and soil gas cleanup activities
- Next steps

Site History

Wyle labs tested products and materials for the defense, aerospace and manufacturing industries. The site property is divided into several areas, each typically consisting of one or more small buildings, structures, and/or outdoor testing areas built for specific kinds of tests.

Hazardous substances such as chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, explosives, munition residues, and rocket motor fuels were used during operations which resulted in the release

Open House Announcement

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

4:00PM to 8:00PM

DTSC invites you to attend our Open House to discuss environmental cleanup activities being conducted at Wyle Labs. You will have an opportunity to talk with DTSC staff directly who will listen and assist you with any concerns or questions you may have. There will be no formal presentation given; rather DTSC staff will be available to meet freely with you to discuss your concerns. The Open House is being held to assist the community with questions and concerns regarding the Wyle Labs site. Please join us at:

Corona-Norco Unified School District
Learning Center North Meeting Room
2820 Clark Avenue
Norco, CA 92860

For more information or to request reasonable accommodation (such as Spanish translation), please contact Ms. Stacey Lear at (714) 484-5354 at least one week prior to the Open House.

of hazardous substances into soil, in localized areas, and groundwater.

Sampling Results at Norco High School – Science Building

Vinyl chloride was detected inside the Science Building at Norco High School in three separate sampling events. In December 2006, soil gas samples were taken from eight locations below the science building and from 11 locations around the science building. All samples were analyzed for specific volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and the breakdown products of TCE (vinyl chloride). VOCs are chemicals commonly found in solvents, degreasers, petroleum compounds and other industrial products. The results of the December 2006 sampling showed TCE and vinyl chloride were not detected below the concrete floor or in the samples around the outside of the science building. Similar soil gas sampling will be repeated again in June/July 2007.

Sampling Results at 27 Homes

Indoor air sampling was done at 27 homes on Golden West Lane, Third Street, Hillside Avenue, and Buckboard Lane between November and December 2006. This was done to evaluate the possibility for vapor to enter the homes from shallow groundwater contamination. Homes were selected based on their location over the known shallow groundwater contamination. Samples were taken where access was authorized by home owners.

Two 24-hour indoor air samples and one outside air sample were collected from each of the 27 homes. Additionally, indoor air "grab" samples also were collected for comparison (validation) purposes from 10 of the 27 homes.

Results indicate 22 of the 27 homes show VOC levels similar to levels found in outside air and are considered safe. Four homes showed levels of TCE so low they do not pose an immediate or long-term risk to residents. One home showed levels of TCE above outdoor air and above California Human Health Screening Levels. It is unlikely that groundwater is a source of TCE levels in this home since all neighboring homes showed levels similar to outdoor levels. This home was re-sampled on March 29, 2007. Sampling included indoor air and soil gas sampling to evaluate whether vapors are entering the home. Sampling results are pending. Indoor air inside each of the 27 homes will be collected again in June and July of 2007.

Update on Ongoing Remedial Investigation

- **Granite Bedrock Evaluation** – an evaluation of the granite bedrock underlying the site was conducted to provide a better understanding of how groundwater flows in the sediments above the granite and through the fractures or cracks in the granite. The study showed that groundwater moves very slowly through the fractures in the granite bedrock, as compared to the groundwater flowing above the granite in the sediments. The highest levels of TCE were detected above the granite bedrock, with the levels of TCE decreasing in deeper samples. Most groundwater and contaminant movement is above the granite bedrock.
- **Ongoing Remedial Investigation** – evaluation of the site for hazardous substance release areas continues since the last fact sheet of March 2006. On September 8, 2006, DTSC received a report with results of all investigations. Based on that information, DTSC requested more sampling. This work is now being done. Information from these investigations is being used to identify areas of soil and groundwater contamination that should be cleaned up.

The extent of most onsite and offsite releases of hazardous substances was identified through the site investigations. The main hazardous substances are the VOCs including TCE, and to a lesser extent perchloroethene (PCE), and the semi-volatile organic compound, nitrosodymethylamine NDMA. Perchlorate was detected at low concentrations in both onsite and offsite groundwater.

Groundwater Cleanup Test

A groundwater cleanup technology, chemical oxidation is being tested onsite. The test began in February 2007, in an area of the site where a known release of TCE occurred into groundwater. This test will help us evaluate if the same technology can be used to clean up soil and groundwater in other areas.

Groundwater Flow Tests

To evaluate the rate groundwater can be pumped from wells without the wells going dry, a groundwater pump test was conducted in November and December 2006. The purpose of the pump test is to evaluate whether sufficient groundwater can be removed to reduce the flow of contaminants from onsite to offsite areas. Groundwater pumped from the wells will be treated for VOCs, perchlorate, and NDMA onsite.

Groundwater & Soil Gas Cleanup

Two cleanup systems are currently operating at the site. The first system is a groundwater pumping system, which has operated onsite since 2004. The second system is a soil vapor extraction system, which has operated onsite and offsite in the northwest area by Golden West Lane since late 2005. The systems remove either groundwater or soil vapor beneath the site and send the water and vapor through activated carbon filters to remove contaminants. Both systems are operating successfully.

Next Steps

Activities to be completed in the coming months include: second round of soil gas (sub-slab) sampling at Norco High School, Science Building; second round of testing inside 27 homes; results of additional onsite and offsite sampling, onsite groundwater clean up test results, and implementation of groundwater pumping in the northwest area to reduce flow of contamination offsite. The status of these items will be reported in a future mailing.

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project activities, please contact the following persons:

Mr. Rafat Abbasi, P.E., Senior Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5449
E-mail: rabbasi@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866- 495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

Where to Find Project Documents

Copies of project documents and related reports are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

Corona Norco Library
Heritage Room
650 S. Main Street
Corona, CA 92882
(951) 736-2381

Norco City Hall
Community Development Office
2870 Clark Avenue
Norco, CA 92860
(951) 270-5661

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the above number to make an appointment.

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Susie Wong, Deputy Director, External Affairs
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828
(916) 324-2997
E-mail: Swong2@dtsc.ca.gov

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

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Inside: Information on the Wyle Laboratories Site, Norco, CA

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov