

Fact Sheet, May 2008



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Interim Removal Action Cleanup Planned for Wyle Labs, Norco

A draft interim cleanup plan to excavate, remove and dispose of contaminated soil from the former Wyle Laboratories (Wyle Labs) site is available for public review and comment. The cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) was developed for the Wyle Labs site. This fact sheet also updates you on our investigation and cleanup of Wyle Labs. Inside this fact sheet you will find:

- Why Cleanup is Necessary
- Site Location and History
- Indoor Testing Update (sampling results at one home northwest of Wyle Labs)
- Site Investigation Update (Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study)
- Status of On-Site Groundwater Cleanup Technology Being Tested
- Hydraulic Containment System Update
- Ongoing Soil Gas Cleanup Activities
- Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps
- Where to Find Site Documents

OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT May 12, 2008 – 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Corona-Norco Unified School District, Learning Center North
2820 Clark Avenue, Norco 92860-1903

DTSC invites you to an Open House to meet with you, receive your comments and discuss any project concerns you have. No formal presentation will be given. Please join us Monday, May 12, 2008, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD May 1, to May 31, 2008

The draft RAW and other related project documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on pages 3 and 4. We will consider and respond to all public comments before field work is implemented. Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than May 31, 2008, and sent to: Mr. Rafat Abbasi, DTSC Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, E-mail: rabbasi@dtsc.ca.gov.



Why Cleanup Is Necessary

As a result of our investigation activities conducted last year several small localized areas of impacted soil were identified. As a result, DTSC required Wyle Labs to prepare a cleanup plan to excavate: 1) lead-impacted soil in Area J14; 2) PCB-impacted soil in Area J11; and 3) perchlorate-impacted soil in Area J11. The total amount of excavated soil is estimated at 105 cubic yards with a maximum planned excavation depth of 8 feet below ground surface. Excavation will require less than ten (10) days to complete. Confirmation sampling will be conducted, after excavation, to demonstrate contaminated soil was sufficiently removed. DTSC will oversee the removal action and ensure work is performed in a manner protective of human health and the environment. The draft RAW is an interim measure and not the final cleanup remedy for the site.

To ensure worker safety, the proposed excavation will be conducted in a manner minimizing dust. Excavated soil will be transported off-site under an approved transportation plan. Soil remediation activities are anticipated to occur Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. No road closures or traffic impacts to residents are anticipated to occur.

Site Location and History

Wyle Labs is located at 1841 Hillside Avenue and occupies about 429-acres of mostly undeveloped land in Norco. Surrounding properties include residences to the south and north, residences and Norco High School to the west, and a golf course to the east. The site is a former defense, aerospace and consumer-product testing facility operating from the late 1950s until 2004. Wyle Labs tested products and materials for the defense, aerospace, and consumer products industries. The site was divided into operational areas typically consisting of one or more small buildings and/or outdoor testing areas built for specific kinds of tests. The majority of the buildings were demolished with only a few structures currently remaining at the site. The site is currently inactive.

Hazardous substances such as chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, explosives,

and rocket motor fuels were handled and/or used during operations. These uses resulted in localized releases of hazardous substances into soil and groundwater. The site is fenced and site security is present to restrict public access.

Indoor Air Testing Update

Indoor air sampling was conducted at 27 homes on Golden West Lane, Third Street, Hillside Avenue, and Buckboard Lane between November and December 2006, and again between June and July 2007 to evaluate the possibility for vapor to enter homes from shallow groundwater. Results of the two rounds of indoor air sampling generally were consistent with one another. The majority of the homes had volatile organic compound (VOC) levels similar to levels found in outside air and are considered safe. Elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE) was detected in one home. Further investigation of this home, which concluded in December 2007, confirmed the TCE was from a source inside the home, and related to the homeowner's use/storage of TCE-containing gun cleaner.

Site Investigation Update (Remedial Investigation)

Bedrock underlying the Northwest Area of the site was evaluated to provide a better understanding of groundwater flow through the fractures or cracks in the granite. Investigations included drilling coreholes, completing multi-depth monitoring wells, and conducting groundwater tracer tests. These investigations were completed in late 2007. In addition, Wyle Labs conducted additional soil, soil gas, and groundwater sampling, as authorized by DTSC through September 2007, to complete the remedial investigation. Results of all site investigative work conducted to date, were reported in the Final Remedial Investigation Report (Final RI), submitted to DTSC for review in January 2008. DTSC is currently reviewing the Final RI and expects to complete the review in May 2008.

The extent of the on-site and off-site releases of hazardous substances was conducted during the remedial investigation. The main hazardous substances are VOCs, including TCE and to a lesser extent perchloroethene (PCE) and the semi-

volatile organic compound, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA).

Feasibility Study Update

A screening Feasibility Study (FS) was prepared in June of 2007 to provide a preliminary review of various cleanup approaches and technologies and select a “short list” of cleanup approaches and technologies for specific areas of the site. Following the Final RI submittal, the FS is being revised. A site-wide FS is expected to be submitted to DTSC in May of 2008. DTSC plans to finalize the FS in summer 2008.

On-Site Groundwater Cleanup Technology Being Tested

A groundwater cleanup technology called chemical oxidation is being tested in an area of the site where a TCE release occurred. Initial results of the test show that chemical oxidation is successful in destroying the TCE and other VOCs in groundwater. Results of the test continued to be monitored through January 2008 and a final report will be prepared after completion of the test monitoring. Results will help determine if the same technology can be used to clean up soil and groundwater in other areas both on-site and off-site.

Hydraulic Containment System – Northwest Area

In July 2007, we approved a preliminary design for an interim Hydraulic Containment System (HCS) installed to control and reduce the migration of impacted groundwater from the Northwest part of the site to off-site areas. This system is designed to contain contaminated groundwater from moving off-site. Extracted groundwater will be treated on-site and discharged just south of Area F under a permit issued by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Construction of this system began in November 2007 and completed in February 2008. The HCS is being tested and started continuous operations in March 2008.

Soil Gas Cleanup

A soil vapor extraction system has operated off-site on Golden West Lane since late 2005. The system has removed soil vapor from beneath the ground surface. Soil vapor is treated using vapor-

phase granular activated carbon to remove VOCs. The system is successful in removing VOCs from soil gas in proximity to homes on Golden West Lane.

How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the draft RAW activities planned for the site. A 30-day public comment period begins May 1, 2008 and ends May 31, 2008. You may provide your comments on the draft RAW during this time. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 31, 2008, and sent to:

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

Potential Environmental Impacts Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC is required by CEQA to review environmental activities for the possibility of impacts, before approving the project. DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project, as the proposed soil removal and related activities will not significantly impact human health or the environment.

Where to View draft RAW and Other Project Documents

The draft RAW and other supporting documents can be viewed at the following Information Repositories:

Corona Norco Library – Heritage Room

650 S. Main Street
Corona, CA 92882-3417
(951) 736-2381
Mon – Thurs: 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fri – Sun: Closed

Norco City Hall Community Development Department

2870 Clark Avenue
Norco, CA 92860-1903
(951) 270-5661
Mon – Thurs: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Please call the number above for an appointment.

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

7701 Mission Boulevard
Glen Avon, CA 92509-2925
(951) 360-8451

Mon – Fri: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sat – Sun: Closed

Please call the number above for an appointment.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337

Mon – Fri: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above to make an appointment.

Next Steps

We anticipate RAW activities to begin after the RAW is approved, sometime in early to mid June 2008. Field work will take less than ten (10) days to complete and occur Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Activities to be completed in the coming months include:

- Completion of final RI and FS Reports;
- Completion and evaluation of on-site groundwater cleanup test;
- Operation and evaluation of HCS in the Northwest Area to control and/or contain the migration of contamination off-site;
- Soil excavation in Areas J11 and J14

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the project or the proposed RAW activities, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Mr. Rafat Abbasi, 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

For Media Inquiries Contact

Sandra Friedman, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5383
E-mail: sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about the Wyle Labs site visit www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov. For more information about DTSC, visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

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.

