



Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) Superfund Study Area

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • July 2009

EPA Announces Proposed Plan for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) announces the availability of EPA's Proposed Plan to address the potential vapor intrusion pathway at the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman Superfund Study Area (MEW Site) in Mountain View and Moffett Field, California.

Introduction

EPA's Proposed Plan for the vapor intrusion pathway provides the MEW Site background, explains the alternatives considered for addressing the vapor intrusion pathway and identifies and explains the reasons for EPA's Preferred Alternatives.

The proposed response actions will address the potential health risk associated with long-term exposure to trichloroethene (TCE) and other MEW Site chemicals of concern through the vapor intrusion pathway into current and future buildings overlying the shallow groundwater contamination at the MEW Site Vapor Intrusion Study Area (see Figure 1 on page 2). The vapor intrusion pathway is the means by which site contamination in the subsurface may migrate upwards into overlying buildings and may impact indoor air quality (see Figure 2 on page 3).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EPA Invites You to EPA Availability Session and Public Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2009

EPA Availability Session 5:00 – 6:30 pm

The EPA availability session will provide an opportunity for the community to ask EPA staff questions and learn more about the MEW Site, the vapor intrusion pathway, and EPA's Proposed Plan.



Public Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Draft Agenda

- Introductions
- Presentation of EPA's Proposed Plan
- Questions and Answers
- EPA receives Formal Public Comments

Mountain View City Hall

City Council Chambers – 2nd Floor
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, California

EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the Proposed Plan and the remedial alternatives considered. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting.

90-day Public Comment Period

EPA will accept written comments on this Proposed Plan during a 90-day public comment period from **July 10 through October 8, 2009**. Written comments can be provided by letter, fax, or email (see EPA contact information below). Letters must be postmarked by October 8, 2009.

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**New:
Public Comment
Period Extended**

Comments can also be provided orally during the public meeting on Thursday, July 23 2009.

The Proposed Plan summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the *Final Supplemental Remedial Investigation* and the *Final Supplemental Feasibility Study for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway for the MEW Study Area, Mountain View and Moffett Field, California*, dated June 2009 (Supplemental RI and FS), and other documents contained in the MEW Site Administrative Record Supplement for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway. EPA encourages the public to review these Site documents to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the MEW Site. The Proposed Plan, Supplemental RI and FS, and Administrative Record Supplement Index are posted on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/region09/MEW.

Other Administrative Record documents are available for public review at the EPA Superfund Records Center listed on the next page.

EPA's Preferred Alternatives

EPA has determined that the Preferred Alternatives identified in the Proposed Plan are necessary to protect public health from MEW Site contamination migrating via the subsurface vapor intrusion pathway into overlying buildings. To determine the appropriate action necessary at existing and future commercial and residential buildings, EPA has developed a tiered approach based on indoor air concentrations of TCE and other Site-specific considerations.

EPA's Preferred Alternative to address the vapor intrusion pathway depends upon where the building is within the overlying TCE shallow groundwater contamination, whether it is a residential or commercial building, what the indoor sampling results are, and whether any actions have already been implemented to reduce indoor air concentrations.

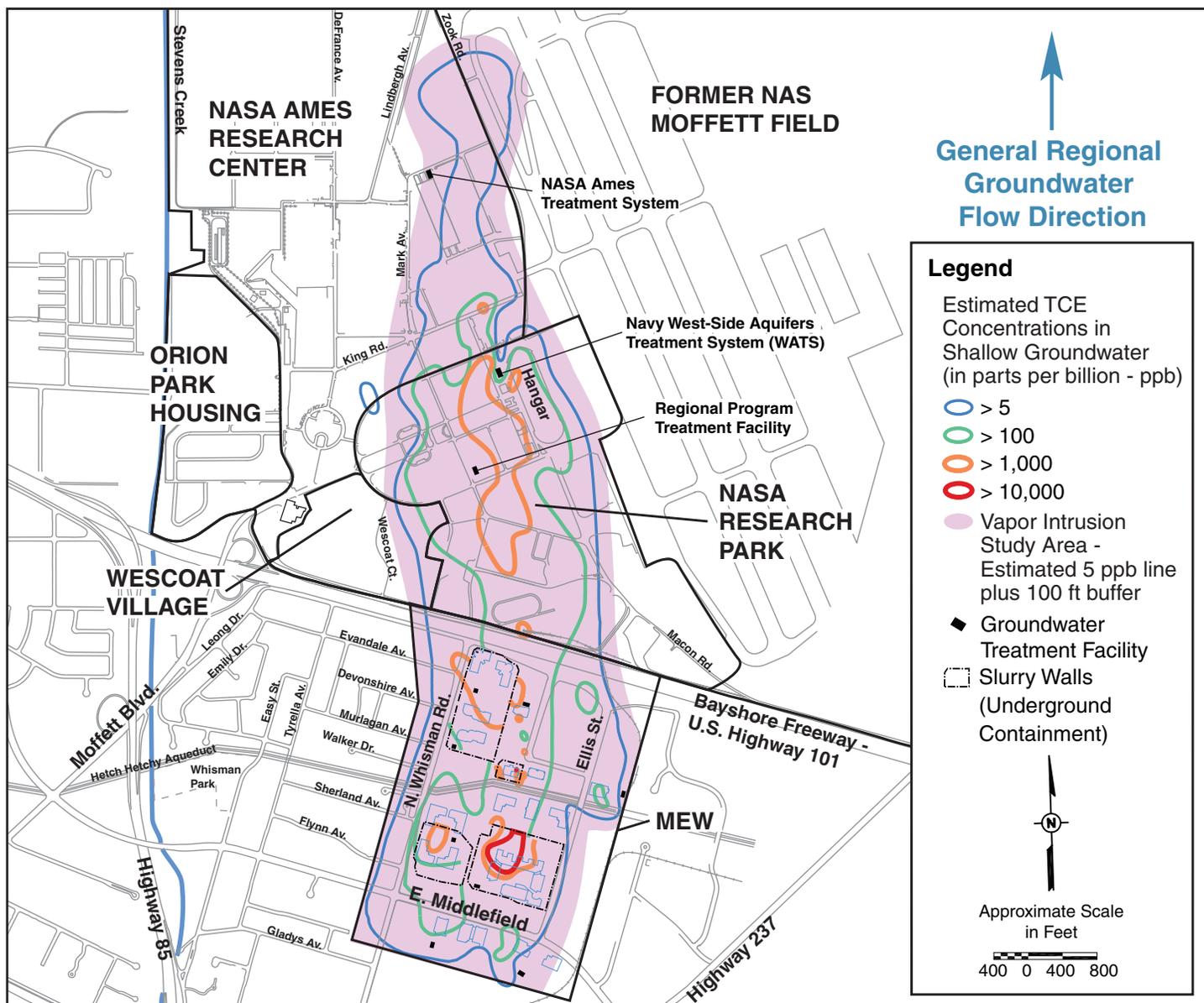


Figure 1: Estimated TCE Concentrations in Shallow Groundwater and Vapor Intrusion Study Area

Existing and Future Buildings

EPA's Preferred Alternative for existing commercial buildings is the use of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems where available, and for future commercial buildings is the installation of the appropriate sub-slab ventilation system. The Preferred Alternative for existing and future residential buildings is the installation of a sub-slab ventilation system, where appropriate. To support each of these engineering controls, the Preferred Alternatives include EPA's preferred Institutional Control, a municipal ordinance that requires implementation of the remedy in the MEW area south of U.S. Highway 101.

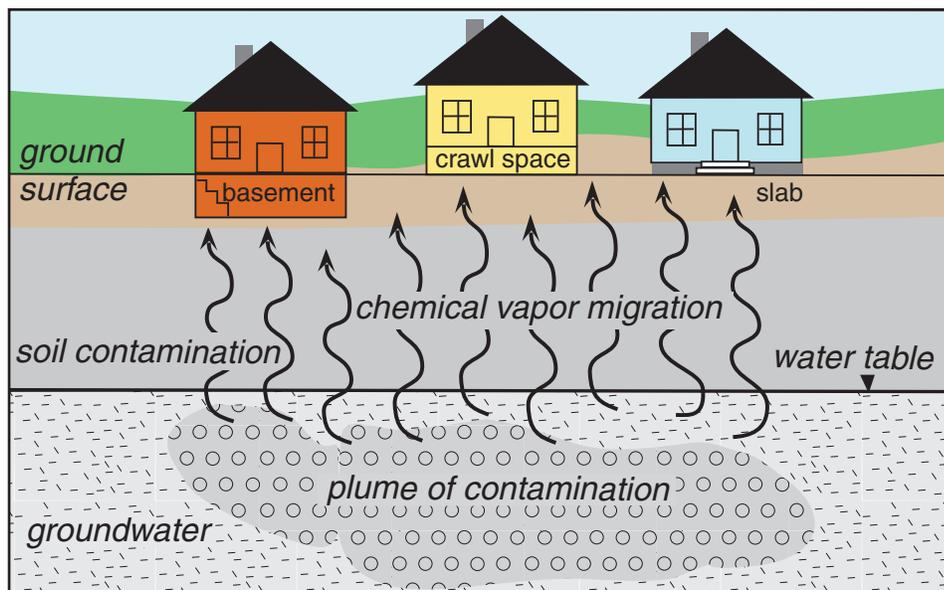


Figure 2: Schematic of vapor intrusion pathway

Information Repository

MEW Site-related documents are available at the EPA Superfund Records Center below.

EPA Region 9 Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-536-2000

Hours:

Monday – Friday,
8 am – 5 pm

The Proposed Plan, Supplemental Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Vapor Intrusion Pathway can also be obtained at: www.epa.gov/region09/MEW



Community Involvement and Participation

Consideration of public input is an important part of EPA's remedy selection process. EPA encourages all community members and other interested stakeholders to review the Proposed Plan and provide input to EPA. Your input can influence EPA's decision.

EPA may modify the Preferred Alternatives or select another response action based on new information or public comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review all of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan. EPA will review and consider all comments received before it makes a final selection of alternatives.

EPA will provide responses to the comments received on the Proposed Plan, which will be documented in a Responsiveness Summary. EPA will document the selected vapor intrusion remedy to be implemented at the MEW Site in an Amendment to EPA's 1989 Record of Decision (referred to as a ROD Amendment).

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— *Public comment period extended through October 8, 2009* —

For More Information

You may download a copy of the Proposed Plan at: www.epa.gov/region09/MEW. If you have any questions about the MEW Superfund Study Area or how to obtain the Proposed Plan, please contact:

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Or You May leave a message on EPA's Toll-free line at **1.800.231.3075**



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