



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SUPERFUND SITES

EPA WILL FUND CONSTRUCTION OF A TREATMENT SYSTEM TO CLEAN
CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER IN THE NORTH HOLLYWOOD/BURBANK AREA

SEPTEMBER 1987

EPA SIGNS RECORD OF DECISION

On September 24, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a Record of Decision providing funds to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), to build an aeration facility to treat contaminated groundwater in one of San Fernando Valley's four well fields included on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's nationwide list of seriously contaminated areas identified for cleanup under the agency's Superfund program.

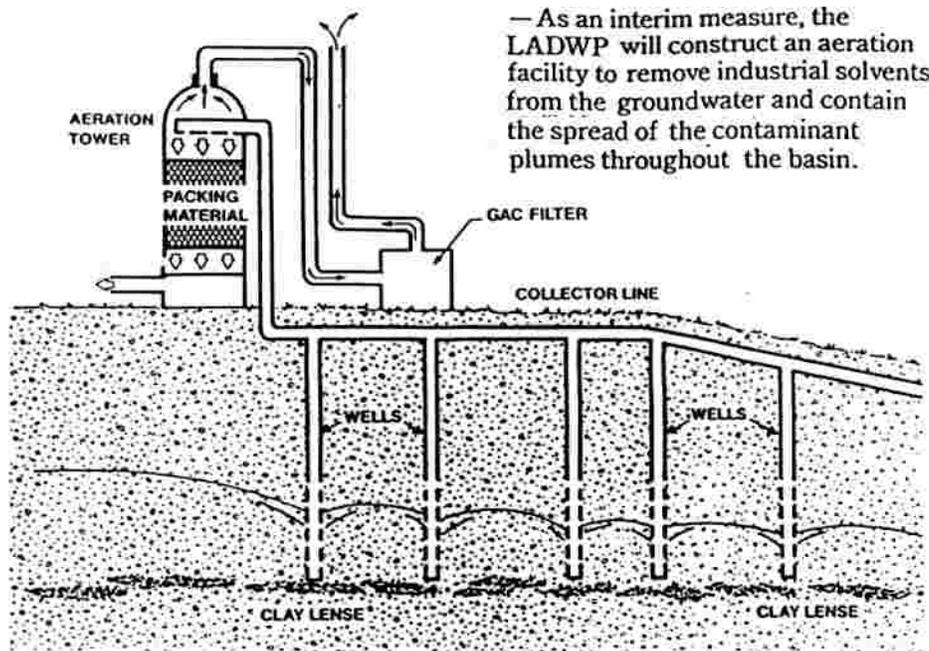
As part of the Record of Decision, EPA has joined with DWP and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) in a Three Party Agreement that defines specific agency responsibilities, cost sharing, and other applicable provisions for construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The project is designed to halt the rapid spread of chemical contaminants in the ground water, principally trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), by ground water extraction. The plume of contaminants has already affected numerous ground water production wells in the North Hollywood/Burbank area (Superfund AREA I) and precluded their use for public water supply. Construction and operation of the project is intended to address the immediate problem in the North Hollywood/Burbank area while a more complete investigation of the Valley's overall ground water problem is being planned by EPA and DWP.

HOW DOES THIS SYSTEM WORK?

Contaminated groundwater will be extracted and conveyed to an aeration facility where water flows through a collector line to the top of a 48-foot high tower (see illustration). As the water falls by gravity through the tower and through packing material, an upward air stream will be passed through the water. The water will then be aerated, transferring the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to the air stream through evaporation. The contaminated air stream will then be filtered through a carbon adsorption tank containing granular activated carbon (GAC), a specially treated material that attracts contaminants. Contaminants will cling ("adsorb") to the carbon, leaving the exiting air stream free of contaminants.



— As an interim measure, the LADWP will construct an aeration facility to remove industrial solvents from the groundwater and contain the spread of the contaminant plumes throughout the basin.

Contaminated groundwater will be extracted and treated to meet the federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE at 5 parts per billion (ppb) and the California State Action Level for PCE at 4 ppb. The treated groundwater will then be conveyed by gravity via an existing pipeline to DWP's North Hollywood Pumping Station for chlorination and distribution to the public water supply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Media Contact

Terry Wilson
Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 974-8083

Community Contact

Tim Vendlinski
Community Relations
U.S. EPA (T-1-3)
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 974-0255

Community Contact

Sandra Tanaka
Public Affairs
L.A. DWP
111 N. Hope, Rm 1512
Los Angeles, CA 90051
(213) 481-6346

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Community Relations
215 Fremont Street (T-1-3)
San Francisco, California 94105