

**USEPA – AMCO Superfund Site  
Community Advisory Group Meeting, September 21, 2009**

EPA Attendees:

Leana Rosetti  
Rose Marie Caraway  
Luis Garcia  
Steve Calanog

EPA Contractors:

Peter Lange/ITSI  
Vibhav Mankad/CDM  
Frankie Burton/CH2M HILL

CAG Members:

Miguel Avalos  
Manuel Garcia  
Nicanor Mendoza  
Pompilia Avalos  
Angie May  
Lisa Spearmint  
John Schweizer /Technical Assistant  
Bradley Angel/Green Action

**Public/Technical Advisor Comments and Updates**

- When the new wells are installed should the residents be concerned about safety?
- Requested that EPA inform the residents of the well installation dates.
- **Technical Advisor (TA):** The drillers will wear protective clothing, because it is required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) law. The drillers are required to monitor air quality levels throughout the well installation and stop work if the levels are unsafe. The residents should notify EPA if the drillers are not monitoring the air quality levels.
- Will future property owners be made aware of the land and groundwater use restrictions on the property after it has been remediated?
- Why do any residents need to be relocated?
  - **EPA:** Residents next to the site may be relocated, because of the odors and noise from the remedial action. Due to proximity to the site, the three properties directly adjacent to the site have the greatest potential for relocation.
- Why won't EPA relocate the residents across the street from the site during the removal action when a few homes on Center Street are being relocated?
  - **EPA:** There must be a technical (public health) justification to relocate a resident during the implementation of the Remedial Action. Depending on the remedy chosen, relocation may only be offered to the residents closest to the site, because of potential noise and odor impacts of the remedial action. The homes on Center Street may be a shorter distance from the site than the homes across the street from the site.
- Will the contaminated groundwater seep into and contaminate the previously replaced resident's soil?

- **EPA:** The residents' soil that was replaced during the lead investigation should not become contaminated again by the contaminated groundwater. In the event that the water were to rise up, continued monitoring of the soil vapor would reveal this.
- Why were people relocated during the South Prescott Park excavation?  
EPA: The State of California was in charge of the South Prescott Park excavation and the current RPM does not remember reading information about why the State chose to relocate residents living in the area. Rose Marie will get back to the CAG members with this information.  
TA: Concerned that the cleanup alternatives are not taking into consideration the high levels of vinyl chloride contamination.
- **TA:** If thermal heating is selected how will you capture vinyl chloride?
- **TA:** Concerned that incineration will be used to deal with vinyl chloride, which would not be ideal.
- **TA:** Enhanced anaerobic bioremediation (EAB) will not treat vinyl chloride. So, leave aerobic bioremediation on the table for consideration.
  - **EPA:** Incineration is not being considered as an element in any of the cleanup alternatives. The vapor treatment will be by cryogenic cooling and condensation system followed by a carbon filtration system. This system will meet the vinyl chloride discharge limits specified by the BAAQMD.
  - **EPA:** a specific dechlorinating bacteria is capable of degrading vinyl chloride to ethene under anaerobic conditions. The current groundwater data from the site shows that vinyl chloride is completely degrading to the final end product ethene. Therefore, EAB is retained as part of the remedial alternatives.
- How will EPA avoid exposing the residents to vinyl chloride if they perform an excavation above the plume during the Remedial Action?
  - **EPA:** EPA will use a pumping system to remove contaminants before and during excavation, and will have capture systems to avoid releasing vinyl chloride into the air. See explanation of dual-phase extraction below.
- A root was removed in the neighborhood and soil was left exposed for a couple of days. Who should the public contact when they notice activities like this?
  - **EPA:** EPA suggested calling Rose Marie or Leana and leaving a message. The dig alert is for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, not the part of Center Street that was dug up, because the plume is not on that side of the street.
- **TA:** Raised concern that there is not a dig alert associated with the part of Center Street near the plume.
- Is long term risk assessment calculated assuming children or adult receptors?
  - **EPA:** EPA will find out if the long term risk assessment of over 30 years is for children, adults or both.

### **Green Action Comments**

- Requested that EPA provide the indoor air sampling results and any future results to the residents as soon as possible.
- Requested that EPA tell the residents (and Green Action) the exact dates that the new wells will be installed.
- Offered to monitor the new well installation on behalf of the residents.

- Concerned that EPA only plans to relocate a small number of residents.
- Requested that EPA increase the number of residents that will be relocated during the remedial action.
- Requested that EPA sign a relocation agreement with the community to provide appropriate accommodations for the relocated residents.
- Requested that EPA does not involve the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the relocation effort.
  - **EPA:** EPA is working with the USACE, because it is required by law. USACE becomes part of the team and recommends relocation areas that are safe for the residents.

## **EPA Presentation/Information**

### ***Groundwater Well Installation***

- New groundwater wells will be installed on the AMCO property, under the freeway, in South Prescott Park and near the residents most likely **starting October 12 and continuing for several weeks.** The exact dates will be confirmed soon.
- EPA will notify the public at least 72 hours in advance.
- EPA will monitor air quality levels during the well installation and will immediately stop work if there are any health risks.
- EPA does not expect there to be any health issues related to the well installation.
- The law (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA) requires workers to wear masks when installing wells.

### ***South Prescott Neighborhood Lead Investigation***

- The **EPA Emergency Response department** is launching an investigation into lead contamination in the soil unrelated to the AMCO site.
- The lead investigation has been expanded east to Center Street, west to Peralta Street and north to Third Street.
- The sampling plan will be ready to share the week of September 28 to October 2.
- Once the sampling plan is finalized, EPA will mail access agreements to the residents that may be affected. The sampling plan is expected to be finalized in the next couple of weeks. **EPA's Emergency Response department** will attend the Open House and go door to door to inform the residents of the investigation and the purpose of the access agreements.
- Soil sampling for lead contamination will begin in October.
- Sampling results will be given to EPA, and follow-up actions will be determined depending on the results.

### ***Overview of Proposed Remedial Alternatives***

- **Alternative 1: No Action**
  - The National Contingency Plan requires a “no action alternative” to serve as a baseline for comparison of other alternatives.
- **Common Elements (of Alternatives 2, 3 or 4\*)**
  - **Dual-Phase Extraction (DPE)** would be performed prior to limited excavation to remove soil gas and NAPL from beneath and between the multi-layer concrete pad and shallow zone soils (10 – 15 feet below ground surface) at the site. DPE would

- partially remove NAPL and soil gas contaminants-of-concern (COC) to prevent exposure to construction workers.
- **Limited Excavation** involves the removal of the multiple concrete layers and the underlying 5 feet of soils. This action would remove the majority of the NAPL present at the site.
  - **Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)** consists of long-term groundwater monitoring of specific parameters. MNA would be implemented following completion of the other elements of the remedial action.
  - **Phytoremediation** involves the planting of trees and other plants at the Site as a polishing step for management of residual contamination. With further evaluation, phytoremediation is not retained as part of the common elements.
  - **Off-Site Hydraulic Control** involves extraction (through pumping) of groundwater from areas downgradient of the site (for example, to the west of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) to prevent the expansion of the groundwater plume. This action would be implemented independent of other remedial actions.
  - **Land Use and Groundwater Use Restrictions** would be established to maintain the long-term permanence of the remedy and to control future human exposure to COCs beneath the site. All land and groundwater use restrictions will be listed on the deed for the property for informing prospective purchasers.
  - **Alternative 2: Deep Excavation and Enhanced Anaerobic Bioremediation**
    - **Deep Excavation** would be performed in select areas to a depth of 10 to 15 feet below ground surface (bgs) to remove all traces of NAPL.
    - **Enhanced Anaerobic Bioremediation (EAB)** would involve injection of carbon substrate as an electron donor into the subsurface to induce biodegradation of chlorinated COCs.
  - **Alternative 3: In-situ Thermal Remediation (ISTR) with SVE/DPE and Enhanced Anaerobic Bioremediation**
    - ISTR will involve heating up the subsurface to over 100 degrees C. This will result in volatilization of the VOCs (including vinyl chloride) in soil and groundwater. Vapors will not be released to atmosphere. Cryogenic cooling and condensation, with use of carbon filtration as a polishing step, will be used to treat all volatile compounds in compliance with the BAAQMD discharge limits.

*\*Alternatives five and six are no longer being considered.*

### **Indoor Air Sampling Results**

- The data did not show short term risk, but did show long-term risk (greater than 30 years of exposure).
- Peak levels detected were attributed to sources from inside the home (examples include cleaning chemicals, air fresheners, etc.).
- EPA is going to move forward with developing mitigation measures to address soil vapor intrusion.
- The indoor air sampling data still needs to be validated and will be ready for release to the public in October.
- At this time, the indoor air sampling results have not changed EPA's plan to mitigate for soil vapor intrusion.

- EPA does not want to provide information about the indoor air sampling results until they have confirmed that all of the data are correct and true.
- Ambient air data showed that the air quality in the South Prescott neighborhood of west Oakland is higher than Oakland, in general, and the Bay Area.
- A grant was awarded to the port of Oakland to put filters on the trucks when idling.

**Community Advisory Group – October 19th Agenda**

- Remedial Alternatives 3 and 4
- CERCLA criteria questions
- Indoor air sampling results – full details for the residents