

Information Repositories and Web Page

The Administrative Record file, which contains documents EPA used to develop this decision and all other site documents are available at:

Fillmore City Hall, 2nd Floor **EPA Superfund Records Center**
250 Central Avenue 95 Hawthorne Street
Fillmore, CA 93015 San Francisco, CA 94105
(805) 524-3701 (415) 820-4700

Documents and information are also available at EPA's website: www.epa.gov/region09/pacificcoastpipeline



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Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site

April 2012

Cleanup Action Update

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with Chevron to continue the cleanup at the Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site (PCPL), also known as the Texaco site in Fillmore, CA (Site Map Below). The purpose of this fact sheet is to summarize the final Record of Decision for the site and update the public on work to date.

VERSIÓN
EN ESPAÑOL
ADENTRO



Figure 1: Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site

Site Tours

EPA and Chevron will conduct tours of the Site on Thursday, April 26th, 2012. Tour times are 3:00pm and 5:30pm, 90 minutes each. Due to limited seating in the tour vans, please contact Jackie Lane, EPA at (415) 972-3236 or by email at: lane.jackie@epa.gov **no later than April 19th** to reserve a seat. There will be a follow-up tour in May as well.



Background

From 1915 to 1950, a refinery operated on the Pacific Coast Pipeline property. Due to past practices the soil and groundwater are contaminated. EPA installed a system to remove and clean the groundwater, which operated from 1992 to 2002. This system made progress in removing benzene from the groundwater but was not able to clean it up to the drinking water standard of one part per billion. In summer 2011 EPA proposed a new cleanup option for the site, conducted a 30-day comment period and held a public meeting in Fillmore. EPA considered all the public comments received and selected a final cleanup remedy for both remaining contaminated groundwater and soil at the site. The final Record of Decision and responsiveness summary to comments can be found at the site's information repository at the Fillmore City Hall and online (See back page for more information)

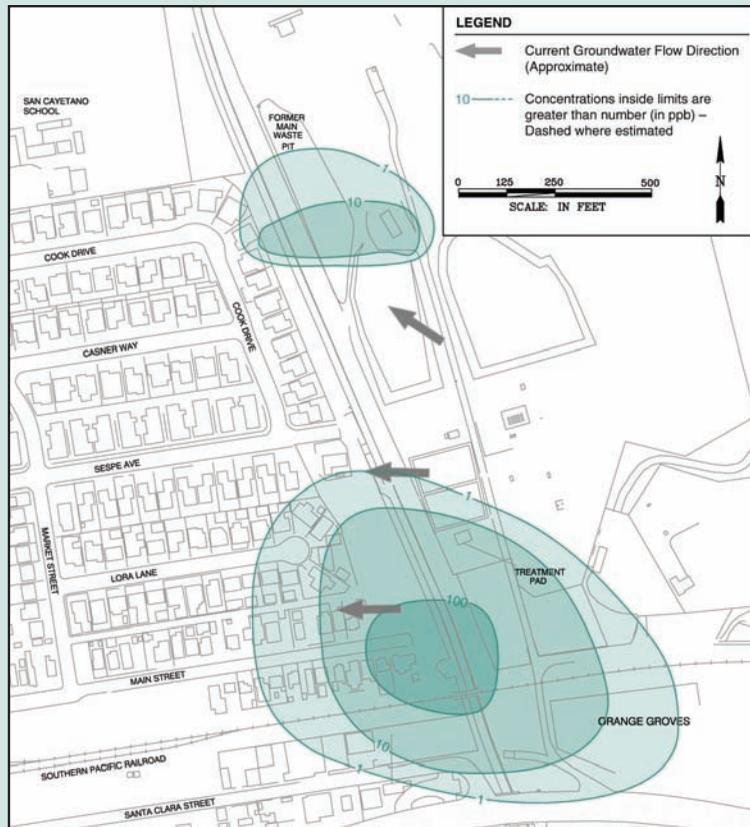


Figure 2: Benzene Contamination Plumes

Cleanup Remedy Selected

Long-term Groundwater Cleanup

In September 2011 EPA selected a multi-phase approach for the groundwater cleanup. The three phases, which will occur sequentially in the southern plume, are:

- Air Sparging: Air will be injected into the groundwater to enable naturally occurring bacteria to break down the benzene
- Groundwater Circulation: Pumps will circulate the groundwater in order to move groundwater that is rich in sulfate under the benzene plume into the groundwater that has benzene. This sulfate will boost the bacteria growth, which will then continue to break down the benzene in the groundwater.
- Monitored Natural Attenuation: Commonly referred to as “MNA”, this phase involves letting the natural processes that break down the benzene to continue without human intervention. Groundwater monitoring wells will keep track of this process.

EPA expects it will take 25 years to reach the cleanup goal in the southern plume. The northern plume, which has less benzene, will be cleaned up using MNA only, where it will take approximately 50 years to reach the cleanup goal.

Soil Cleanup

The soil at the former refinery has lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in various locations across the property. This contaminated soil will be excavated and disposed of in an on-site pit, which will be capped. After the soil cleanup is complete, the property can be used for commercial and recreational uses only.

Is Benzene In My Drinking Water?

The City of Fillmore pumps groundwater from the Sespe Creek area. It does not use groundwater in the Pole Creek area. The groundwater at the Pacific Coast Pipeline site flows to the west and under Pole Creek but the benzene, which is 60 feet below ground, is naturally destroyed by bacteria in the groundwater. Southern plume monitoring wells show that there is no benzene in groundwater at Market Street and northern plume monitoring wells show there is no benzene in groundwater at Cook Drive or at San Cayetano School.

Who Will Do the Cleanup Work?

Chevron Environmental Management Company will perform the cleanup work on behalf of Texaco, a subsidiary of Chevron. The work will be performed under the direction of EPA pursuant to a legally binding agreement called a consent decree. EPA and Chevron will negotiate the terms of the consent decree and then submit it to the U.S. District Court for review and approval. Prior to the Court's decision whether to approve it there will be a 30-day public comment period.

Fate and Transport: What Happens to Chemicals in the Environment?

Fate and transport refers to what happens to chemicals in different environmental media such as air, water and soil. Not all chemicals act the same. Some chemicals are very mobile, readily moving from one location to another, and one media to another (e.g., soil to groundwater). Some chemicals are relatively immobile and don't move much at all. Some chemicals break down (biodegrade) readily and some don't. Understanding how different chemicals move and what happens to them is essential when trying to clean them up.

At the PCPL Site the three main chemicals of concern are benzene, lead, and PAHs.

- Benzene can readily break down into harmless chemicals such as carbon dioxide when exposed to oxygen and sulfate. This is why at the PCPL Site there is no benzene in the shallow soil and why the plumes in groundwater are fairly small. The oxygen in the air breaks down the benzene in shallow soil and the oxygen and sulfate in groundwater break down the benzene before it can flow away.
- Lead and PAHs are relatively immobile and tend to stay in the soil until they are dug up. Because of this, neither one has ever been detected in the groundwater at the site.