



EPA

AEROJET SUPERFUND SITE RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • FEBRUARY 2001

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes the formation of a Community Advisory Group

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes it is important for community members in Rancho Cordova, Folsom, Fair Oaks, Carmichael, North Highlands, and other nearby areas of Sacramento County to help make decisions about how to clean up the Aerojet General Corp. (Aerojet) Superfund site. A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is a committee, task force, or board made up of members of the community affected by a Superfund or other hazardous waste site. This group represents the diverse concerns of the community in exchanging information with EPA and other regulatory agencies charged with cleaning up contamination at the site. Forming a Community Advisory Group is one of the best ways for all parts of the community to participate in the decision-making process.

To help the community form a CAG, EPA will sponsor an information meeting on:

Thursday, March 22, 2001, 7:00 pm

at the offices of:

**The State of California Water Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Street, Sacramento, California**

The meeting is open to the public, and EPA urges all interested members of the community to participate. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the benefits of forming a CAG, how members might be chosen, and what steps are necessary to organize a CAG. EPA also will answer questions concerning cleanup plans and activities at the site, including the status of the current Western Groundwater remedy selection, negotiations with the potentially responsible parties, and investigations at other areas of contamination.

The Aerojet General Corp. property covers 8,500 acres near Rancho Cordova, 15 miles east of Sacramento. Underlying the site are extensive 40- to 100-foot deep dredge tailings from past gold mining operations. The northeastern edge of the property is about 1/2 mile from the American River. Groundwater aquifers underlying the site supply water for municipal, domestic, industrial and some irrigation purposes. The American River is also used for public water supplies.

Since 1953, Aerojet, its subsidiaries, and other companies have manufactured liquid- and solid-propellant rocket engines and have formulated a number of chemicals including rocket propellant agents and agricultural, pharmaceutical, and industrial chemicals. These companies disposed of unknown quantities of hazardous waste chemicals in surface impoundments, landfills, deep injection wells, and leachate fields, and some by open burning.

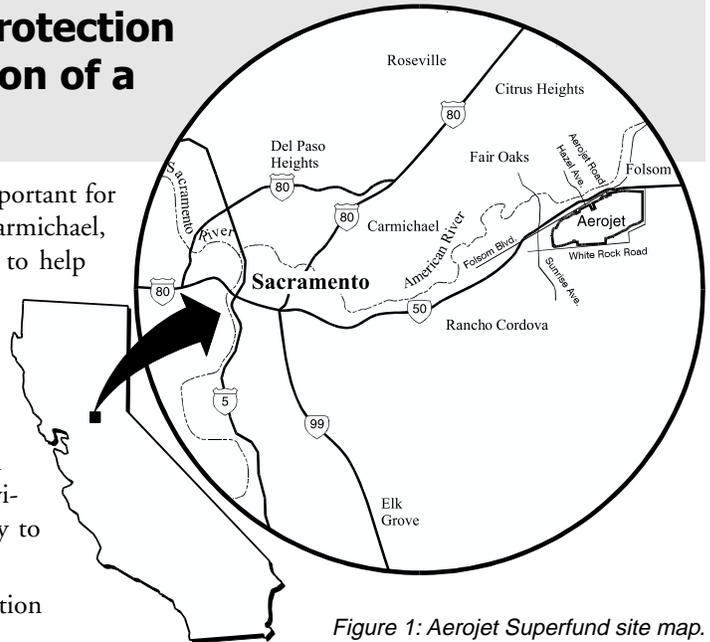


Figure 1: Aerojet Superfund site map.

In 1979, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found off-site in private wells and then, in 1983, in the American River. Unacceptable concentrations of perchlorate, a component of solid rocket fuel, were found in drinking water wells off-site in January 1997. Public and private drinking water supply wells have been contaminated and wells contaminated above acceptable levels have been closed.

EPA's Superfund program covers the clean-up of abandoned or inactive hazardous waste throughout the United States. Since community involvement is an important part of the Superfund process, EPA has conducted various activities to keep the community informed about events at the site. EPA has periodically issued fact sheets on current events at the site and invited the public to informational meetings and formal hearings on the site. However, EPA believes that both the community and the regulating agencies would benefit from regular, on-going interaction regarding the site.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES FOR THE AEROJET SUPERFUND SITE PROPOSED PLAN MAY BE FOUND AT:
California State University Sacramento Library • 2000 State University Drive East • Sacramento, CA 95899-6039
Contact: Ben Amata, Government Documents • Tel: (916) 278-5672
For Library hours and information, please call (916) 278-6926

THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE AEROJET SUPERFUND SITE MAY BE FOUND AT:
EPA Superfund Records Center • SFD-7C • 95 Hawthorne Street • Suite 403S • San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Aerojet Superfund site or would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:

EPA CONTACTS

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9

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TOLL-FREE INFORMATION LINE: (800) 231-3075

STATE CONTACTS

DTSC - Ed Cargile

(916) 255-3703

RWQCB - Alex MacDonald

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