



AMCO Chemical Superfund Site

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • AUGUST 2004

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION FIELDWORK TO BEGIN

At-A-Glance

• What:

Remedial Investigation (RI) field work begins at the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site. EPA will perform extensive sampling to determine the extent of contamination.

• Where:

Former AMCO Chemical Facility and immediate vicinity (refer to map inside), Oakland, CA

• When:

Starting September 2004

• How:

EPA will install monitoring wells and soil gas probes. We will take samples of air, soil, soil gas, and groundwater. Because we know more about the historical operations at the Site than we did before, we will be sampling for chemicals that were not analyzed during previous EPA work at the Site.

• What's Next:

Results from the investigation will be validated for accuracy and analyzed to understand and define the extent of contamination. These results will then be presented to the community at a public meeting.

• Public Meeting •

Wed, August 25, 2004

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Prescott Elementary School Cafeteria
920 Campbell Street
West Oakland

Topics will include:

- Upcoming sampling activities
- Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

A Spanish translator will be available. EPA will provide a free shuttle to run between the West Oakland BART station and the school, before and after the meeting, starting at 5:45 pm.

In August 2004, EPA will conduct walks through the Site with local utilities and the field work team in order to assess the current state of the Site and to confirm access to the planned sampling locations. EPA will begin mobilization and setup of two field trailers and equipment during the week prior to the start of field work.

Since we have to take samples during different seasons (dry and wet), field work will be conducted in two major phases. The first phase (dry season) will start in September and will occur over a nine-week period. This phase will involve sampling of groundwater, soil and soil gas, installation of monitoring wells and soil gas probes and aquifer testing to determine the way water moves through the soil. In addition, soil gas, crawlspace air and outdoor air quality sampling will occur at residences adjacent to the Site where permission has been given to EPA. The majority of the sampling will occur during the first three weeks. The remaining six weeks will involve installation of monitoring wells for groundwater sampling and aquifer testing.

Remedial Investigation (RI) field work at the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site (the Site) is scheduled to start in September 2004 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Previous U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigations confirmed the presence of chlorinated solvents, including vinyl chloride and other contaminants on or near the Site. Sampling has indicated that the Site poses no immediate threat to residents; however, there is concern that the contaminants may pose a potential threat if nothing is done. In September 2003, EPA designated the Site as a Superfund site, making it eligible for federal funds under the Superfund process.

The second phase (wet season) will start in January 2005 and will consist of additional soil gas and outdoor air sampling at residences immediately adjacent to the Site. The second phase is expected to last approximately two weeks. In addition to the two field work phases, groundwater sampling will also be conducted in late spring and beginning of Fall 2005 to monitor its movement quarterly (four times a year). Each groundwater “monitoring event” is expected to last approximately one week.

As with all field work, this schedule may be changed based on field conditions encountered during the investigation. For more information about the upcoming field work, look inside at the “Questions and Answers about Upcoming Field Work” section.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is Available!

The CIP summarizes the feedback EPA received regarding our previous work at the Site and describes how we will involve community members in upcoming Site activities. The CIP establishes a plan to engage the community in the AMCO Chemical Site Superfund process, provides a public record of our community involvement commitments, describes how we will continue to solicit and understand community concerns and priorities and documents the concerns and priorities we have received through community feedback. What we hear from the community will ultimately affect the cleanup activities of the Site. This plan has been published in English and Spanish and is available to the community at the Oakland Public Library (West Oakland Branch), at the EPA Superfund Records Center in San Francisco, through local community-based organizations and on the web at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf>. Once on the site overview page, please click on AMCO Chemical Superfund Site. You can also obtain a copy of the CIP by calling Wenona Wilson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, using the contact information on the back page of this fact sheet.

EPA Selects Administrator of Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

EPA has selected the Alliance for West Oakland Development (AWOD) to administer the TAG for the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site community.

The AWOD has formed a coalition with the South Prescott Neighborhood Association (SPNA) to implement the grant.

Can You Help?

EPA is currently conducting an investigation to identify how chemicals may have been used or released historically at the Site and identify those individuals and entities that may be responsible for such releases. If you have any information related to the past operations of AMCO Chemical Corporation, or any other possible sources of contamination/pollution in and around the block containing the AMCO Chemical Superfund Site, please contact Andrew Taylor of the EPA’s Case Development Team at (415) 972-3129. For Spanish-only speakers, please contact Bruni Dávila at (415) 972-3162. All information, including identity, can be confidential (identities and status are not shared with other governmental agencies).

The purpose of the TAG is to provide the community with funds to hire a technical advisor to interpret documents related to the AMCO Chemical Site. The technical advisor is also available to assist the community in preparing its comments to EPA. Although the administration of the grant is awarded to one group, the benefits and services of the technical advisor are for the entire community.

The total amount of the grant is \$50,000 with \$20,000 in-kind services from AWOD. EPA is currently processing the grant. The formal award will be made when the paperwork is complete. After start-up, the grant money will be released to AWOD on a reimbursement basis.

According to the workplan, the AWOD/SPNA coalition will hire a technical advisor, hold public meetings, distribute a bilingual (Spanish/English) flyer and collaborate with all other interested individuals and groups.

For more information, please contact: Jabari Herbert, AWOD Executive Director, at (510) 663-0363 or David Carter, SPNA lead, at (510) 893-9030.

Community Outreach Specialist New Hire

In response to comments made by the community during the May 2003 EPA public meeting, a Community Outreach Specialist from the South Prescott or West Oakland community will be hired. Qualifications considered in the selection of this individual include fluency in Spanish, ability to attend a 40-hour health and safety training

Next Steps



Collect Data



Validate Data



Interpret Results



Present Results/Community Meeting

Results from the investigation will be validated for accuracy and analyzed to understand and define the extent of contamination. These results will then be presented to the community and discussed at a public meeting. For more information on the entire Superfund process, check out *Appendix B – Superfund Process* located in the CIP.

certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and residence in West Oakland, with preference given to those from South Prescott. The Community Outreach Specialist will provide support to EPA in many areas of community outreach including community participation, community meetings and neighbor visitations.

ATSDR Health Assessment

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Health Services (DHS) to conduct public

health assessments (PHAs) at Superfund sites. The Environmental Health Investigations Branch of DHS will be conducting a PHA for the Site. The PHA is an evaluation and interpretation of the public health issues related to a contaminated site. Environmental data, health data, exposure and health concerns are considered in the process of developing a PHA. In addition to the PHA, EPA will perform a risk evaluation in order to evaluate whether a hazardous substance from the Site poses a current or future threat to human health and the environment. ATSDR, DHS and EPA will be working closely together during the Superfund process, though their individual tasks are different. (See the box on this page to learn how the ATSDR/DHS health assessment differs from the EPA risk evaluation.)

If you have questions or comments for ATSDR or DHS, you can contact them directly at:

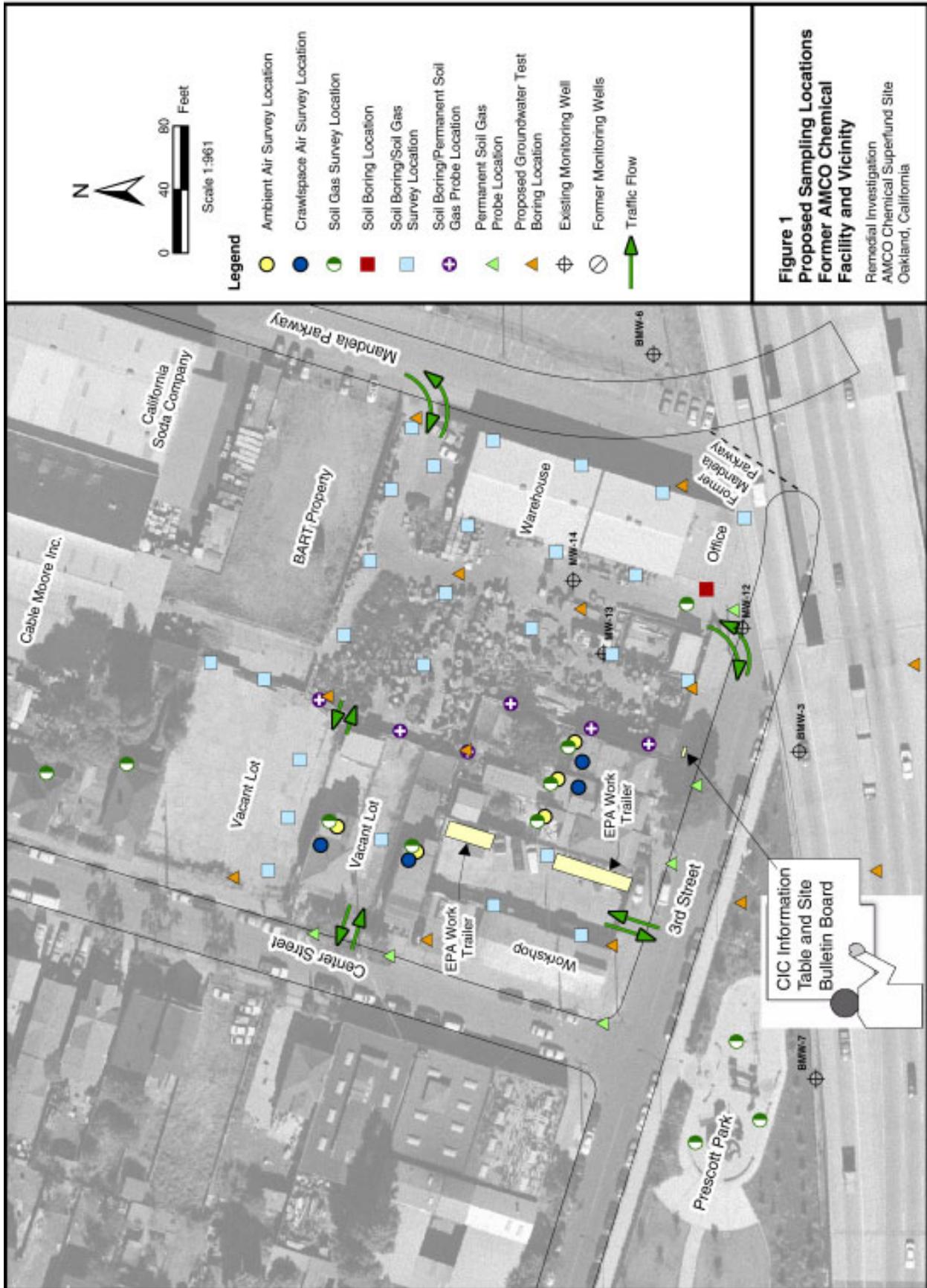
California Department of Health Services
Environmental Health Investigations Branch
ATTN: Tivo Rojas
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612
510-622-4500
E-mail: trojas@dhs.ca.gov

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Region IX
ATTN: Libby Levy
75 Hawthorne Street
Suite 100, HHS-100
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-947-4319
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

What's the Difference?

Both EPA and ATSDR conduct assessments on the sites they are involved in, but they are focused in different directions.

- The ATSDR public health assessment (PHA) focuses on the exposed or potentially exposed people and recommends/performs appropriate prevention and follow-up health activities.
- The EPA risk evaluation focuses on the environmental contamination and what should be done to prevent exposure.
- Together, these two agencies work to provide the community with information and services needed to protect human health.



Questions and Answers About Upcoming Field Work

1. Will I be affected by field work at the Site?

Some of the equipment used during field work may generate noise while drilling or during sample collection. Parts of 3rd Street, Mandela Parkway or Center Street may need to be blocked off for brief periods of time for sample collection, installation of wells and installation of soil gas probes. We do not expect any streets to be fully closed to traffic. We will be working with the City of Oakland and visiting site neighbors to talk with them about our activities.

2. Is traffic going to be disrupted?

The implementation of the field work will result in minor additional traffic in the South Prescott neighborhood. The additional traffic will include truck-sized drill rigs and support trucks. The additional traffic generally will be limited to the beginning and end of the workday.

3. What will we see during sampling?

Although most of the field activities will take place in the area of the Site itself, you may see workers and vehicles on streets, sidewalks and public spaces near the Site. EPA work trailers will be parked onsite (see full-page map). Most of the time you will see workers wearing hard hats, safety glasses, safety gloves and work boots. You may see workers wearing head-to-toe protective clothing, respirators and other equipment while they are investigating the more heavily contaminated portions within the Site. Sampling locations in areas outside of the former AMCO Chemical facility will be taped off to alert bystanders to stay out of the area. The RI sampling is typically performed by creating holes one to four inches in diameter in the ground.

4. How will workers and the public be protected during field work?

As required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), during investigation and remediation activities at hazardous sites, the Site will be divided into work zones to help control work and reduce the chance of transferring contaminants from the work area to clean areas. These zones include the exclusion zone, the contaminant reduction zone and the support zone. The potential level of exposure to Site contaminants determines the boundaries of each zone, with the exclusion zone marking the area of highest risk (see diagram on page 23 of the CIP for more details). Workers wear protective clothing and possibly respirators

in the exclusion zone because there is a higher potential to be exposed to the contamination while investigating the Site. The contamination reduction zone is where workers remove protective clothing, so you may see people in normal or protective clothing here. In the support zone, they usually wear normal work clothes because the potential to be exposed to the contamination is much lower.

Site neighbors and the general public will be outside all work zones; therefore, there is no need for protective clothing, respirators or equipment. If you would like to read the project's Health and Safety Plan, it is available at the Site repositories (see repository information on back page).

5. Can I visit the Site during field work?

The RI field work is an incredibly busy time for EPA. However, we want to make sure that any questions you have about activity at the Site are answered. To better serve the community during field work, a Bulletin Board will be installed on 3rd Street just outside the Site. The Site Bulletin Board will host EPA information on field work and provide community space for site-related postings. For direct access to EPA staff during field work, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), Wenona Wilson, will be hosting an information table on the sidewalk outside the Site on 3rd Street. She will be available to answer questions and take feedback. In addition, EPA's Project Manager, Bruni Dávila, will be available to answer technical questions on a regular weekly basis. The availability of the CIC and Project Manager to meet with the public will change weekly depending on field work activities. Updates on visit hours will be posted on the Site Bulletin Board. You can also call EPA staff at 1-800-231-3075.



For More Information

U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Wenona Wilson (SFD-3)
Community Involvement Coordinator
(415) 972-3239
Toll-free message line: **1 (800) 231-3075**

Bruni Dávila (SFD-7-4)
Project Manager
(415) 972-3162

Project Information Repositories

West Oakland Public Library
1801 Adeline Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 238-7352

U.S. EPA Region 9 - Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Call (415) 536-2000 for an appointment



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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Wenona Wilson (AMCO 8/04)

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