



Ralph Gray Trucking Superfund Site

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 April 2000

EPA to collect soil samples from Flood Control Channel Access Road Westminster, California

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of EPA's upcoming soil sampling at the Ralph Gray Trucking Co. site located in Westminster, California. As a follow-up to the major soil cleanup at the site, EPA will sample a small area on the perimeter of the site to confirm that the hazardous substances were completely removed beginning the week of April 24.

Site Description and History

The Ralph Gray Trucking Company Superfund Site is located in a residential neighborhood of Westminster, California. This neighborhood is also known as Westminster Tract Number 2633 and is located north of the San Diego freeway (I 405) and is bounded by the Orange County flood control channel to the south, Goldenwest Avenue to the west, the U.S. Navy railroad to the north and Chestnut Street to the east. The area to the west of the site is residential and the surrounding areas to the north, east, and south are used for light industrial and commercial purposes.

During the 1930's, Ralph Gray disposed of acid sludge, oil field wastes, and oil refinery wastes in unlined pits at the site. The pits were abandoned and remained undisturbed until the Hintz Development Corporation relocated the hazardous substances during the construction of homes at the site. The waste was moved to two unlined trenches which became the backyards of the homes along Kathy and Allen Streets and along the flood control channel. Based on soil and groundwater sampling, EPA determined that the contaminants in the waste represented a human health risk to the community and initiated cleanup of the waste from the site in 1992. The removal action and the site restoration were completed in February 1997.

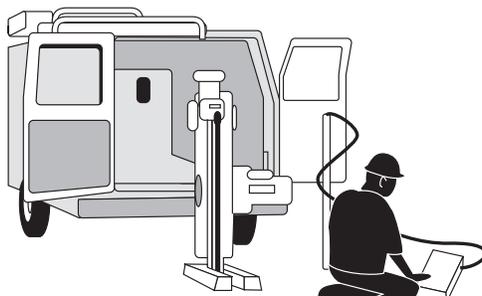
Soil Sampling

During the major removal action at the site in 1995, EPA installed nine groundwater monitoring wells which were sampled twice in the fall of 1999. EPA found low levels of the waste material in one monitoring well near the flood control channel. The groundwater at the site flows from north to south, therefore, EPA does not believe that the low level of waste material found in the monitoring well is migrating into the residential area. The purpose of this soil sampling effort is to further study the area in which the low levels of waste were found and to determine if waste material is present.

EPA will not need to access any of the residential properties at the site to conduct this soil sampling activity. EPA will use a Geoprobe sampler to collect the soil samples. The Geoprobe is hydraulically powered and is mounted on the back of a pickup truck. The Geoprobe uses the weight of the truck to push a sampler to the desired depth. This is a quick and easy way of collecting samples without drilling or excavating. Samples collected in this manner will be packaged and sent to a certified laboratory for analysis. Based on the results of this sampling effort, EPA will take action to cleanup any waste identified in this area.

Working Hours:

EPA will limit the working hours for the soil sampling from 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday. EPA will be on-site during the sampling to answer questions during this effort or you may contact us at our office.



For More Information

If you have any questions or concerns about this sampling work please contact:

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**or leave a message on EPA's TOLL-FREE line:
1-800-231-3075
and we will return your call**

**SI NECESITA INFORMACION EN ESPANOL, POR FAVOR PONGASE EN CONTACTO
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