EPA

WASTE DISPOSAL, INC.
SUPERFUND SITE (WDI)

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

Santa Fe Springs, California *July 1998*

EL NIÑO DELAYS INVESTIGATIONS

The purpose of this fact sheet is to give you a quick update on the on-going investigative activities at the Waste Disposal, Inc. (WDI) Superfund site in Santa Fe Springs, California. As described in detail in our August 1997 fact sheet, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been overseeing various field activities and investigative studies at the WDI site to ensure that the site is fully investigated and to obtain current data prior to completion and approval of the final cleanup design.

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES STILL ON-GOING

El Niño has definitely impacted our schedule. Many activities planned for the fall and winter of 1997 had to be put on hold until the rains stopped. Some of these activities are now being conducted both by EPA and the Waste Disposal, Inc. Group (WDIG), the parties named in EPA's enforcement order. The rains made certain areas of the site inaccessible to heavy vehicles. Soil vapor tests need dry soil conditions to obtain accurate data. Testing to evaluate the extent to which soil gases could be extracted is now about to begin. The wells for soil vapor extraction (SVE) tests are now being installed, and the tests will be conducted this summer. El Niño also has caused additional work at the site; EPA will investigate to see if the heavy rainfall has affected the reservoir.

FALL DEADLINE SET FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS

EPA plans to provide a summary of all the activities conducted during this last year in a comprehensive fact sheet to be distributed later this summer. Also later this year, detailed investigative reports including a Remedial Design (RD) Investigative Report, will be added to the site repository at St. Paul's High School. This fact sheet describes the on-going field work scheduled to be completed during July and August 1998.

SITE BACKGROUND

The 40-acre WDI Superfund site is located in the City of Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, California. The site is surrounded by commercial and industrial areas to the north, west and south, residential areas to the east, and a school athletic field along the northeastern corner. At its center, the WDI site contains a buried 42-million gallon capacity concrete reservoir originally constructed for crude petroleum storage. The reservoir was decommissioned in the late 1920s, but the reservoir and surrounding areas were used until the 1960s for disposal of a variety of liquid and solid wastes. Wastes disposed of at the site include petroleum chemicals, solvents, sludges, construction debris, drilling muds, and other waste materials. The reservoir and portions of the site area were covered with soil during the 1960s. The site was added to the National Priorities List (Superfund list) in 1987. The site is currently in the Remedial Design (RD) phase of cleanup activities, with RD investigative activities currently underway as described in this fact sheet.

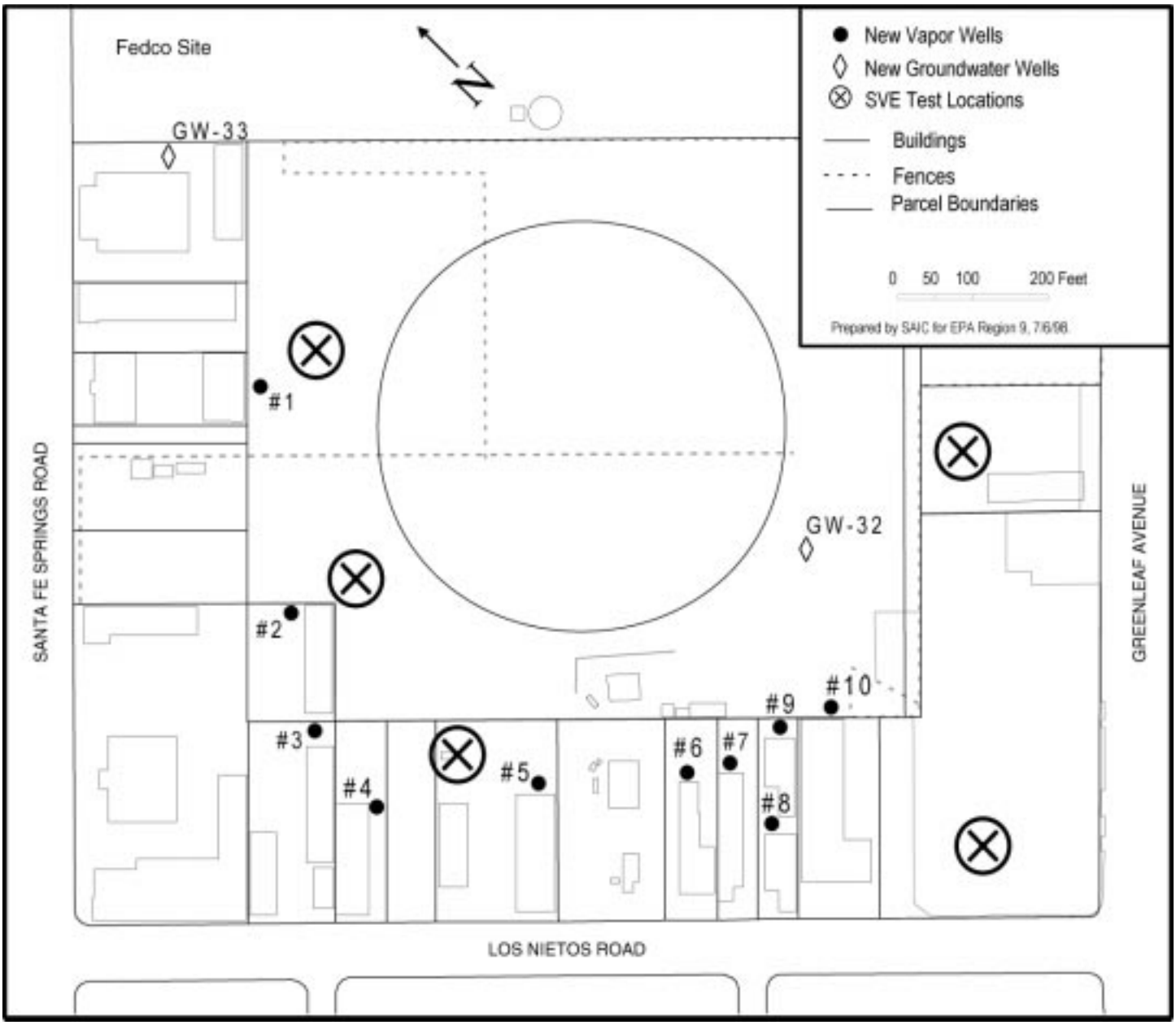

Figure 1: Location of New Vapor Wells, Groundwater Wells and Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) Tests

ADDITIONAL SOIL VAPOR MONITORING WELLS

During the last seven months, 24 new perimeter and interior, multi-level, soil vapor monitoring wells were installed by the WDIG. Multi-level monitoring wells are a state-of-the-art construction method which allows for gas samples to be collected from two to three different depths in the subsurface at a particular location. Although the installation of these wells was originally planned for 1997, several wells were just completed in the last two months since the muddy soils made certain areas of the site inaccessible during the rainy season. During July 1998, EPA will install an additional 10 multi-level soil vapor monitoring wells in the locations shown on Figure 1. The installation of these wells combined with the previously installed wells provides a comprehensive, upgraded, soil vapor well network for long-term monitoring of the site. In October 1997, the WDIG and EPA began collecting soil vapor data on a quarterly basis from both the older wells and these new multi-level wells. We currently are compiling and evaluating this data to identify patterns and trends.

SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION (SVE) TESTS

The soil vapor extraction (SVE) pilot treatability studies planned for last year will be conducted over the next eight weeks during July and August. Several factors delayed the start-up of these tests. First it was necessary to complete the temporary soil gas probe study and analyze the data to determine locations with elevated subsurface gas levels. These studies were initially conducted in August and September 1997, but
additional geo-probe studies continued through December until the rains began to seriously impact our field schedule. The SVE tests could not be conducted under wet soil conditions. Now that El Niño finally is over, we can commence these studies. Five test locations have been selected, as shown on Figure 1.

TEMPORARY RESERVOIR MONITORING POINTS

Because of the unexpectedly heavy rainfall during the last five to six months, EPA will install 50 temporary monitoring points in the reservoir to determine the amount of rainwater that has infiltrated the soil cover. Data from these monitoring points will be collected and analyzed in August and September 1998. The results will be included in a final Remedial Design (RD) Investigative Report planned for this Winter.

ADDITIONAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

After reviewing the existing groundwater monitoring well network, EPA has requested that the WDIG install two additional groundwater monitoring wells on the site: one well upgradient in the north-west corner and the other well south-east of the reservoir. (See Figure 1.) The addition of these two wells to the existing network of 27 groundwater monitoring wells will provide a comprehensive network for determining if any contaminants from the site are impacting the ground water. Groundwater monitoring of existing groundwater wells began on a quarterly basis in October 1997.

WHAT'S NEXT

This Fall, EPA plans to begin consultations regarding potential design changes and future land uses for the site. EPA will seek input from numerous interested parties, including representatives from the surrounding community (i.e., unincorporated Whittier and Santa Fe Springs), the City of Santa Fe Springs, the adjacent high school, the property owners, the tenants and WDIG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The EPA Superfund program values community input. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Carmen White
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2183

Andria Benner
EPA Project Manager
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2361

or leave a message on EPA's TOLL-FREE line: (800) 231-3075 and we will return the call.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Carmen White

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35