



# San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU)

August 2011

## Soil Gas Sampling on El Monte and South El Monte Streets

Sampling scheduled for early August 2011

As part of the ongoing Superfund Site cleanup at the South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU), contractors working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be collecting soil gas samples in various locations in El Monte and South El Monte (see Figure 1). The samples will help determine if additional testing is needed to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion, a process where underground contamination can enter as vapors into buildings. Contractors will install temporary boreholes and collect samples from locations up to 15 feet below ground surface. Construction may be noisy at times, and vehicle traffic may be re-routed temporarily around sampling locations.



Figure 1: Soil Gas Sampling Locations

### What:

Drilling of temporary bore holes and collection of soil gas samples at depths of about 5-15 feet

### When:

Typically Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm

### How Long:

Each sampling location will take approximately 1 day to complete

### Where:

See Figure 1

### Why:

To collect data for a preliminary evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion, a process where underground contamination can enter as vapors into buildings; this will determine if additional testing will be needed



# San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site

*South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU)*

## Site History

The SEMOU is part of the San Gabriel Valley Area 1 Superfund Site, and addresses contaminated groundwater under the cities of South El Monte, El Monte, and Rosemead. The groundwater contamination is the result of decades of poor or improper chemical handling and disposal practices by hundreds of industrial facilities. The primary chemical contaminants in the Site's groundwater are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE), both industrial solvents. Other chemicals detected in the groundwater include 1, 4-dioxane, used as a stabilizer in chlorinated industrial solvents, and perchlorate, used as an oxidizer in fireworks and rocket fuel. EPA's

ongoing remedy includes extracting and treating contaminated groundwater. The treated water meets all federal and state health-based protective standards for drinking water.

## What is Soil Gas?

Soil gas is the air present in the pore spaces within soil. Because PCE and TCE can volatilize (become gas) under certain conditions, they are called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). It is possible for VOCs in groundwater to volatilize and migrate up to the surface. Therefore, it is important to sample the soil gas near the surface in order to find out if additional testing around or inside buildings will be necessary.

## For More Information, Please Contact:

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For information in Vietnamese, Chinese or Spanish  
please contact the number below.

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