



# Aerojet General Corporation Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • September 2011

## EPA Selects Cleanup Plan for Operable Unit 5 of the Aerojet General Corporation Superfund Site

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently selected a remedy for a large portion of the Aerojet General Corporation Superfund Site (Aerojet Site) in Sacramento County, California known as the Perimeter **Groundwater** Operable Unit (OU-5) (see site map, page 3). The signed **Record of Decision** (ROD) memorializes this Plan to contain and treat contaminated groundwater moving off the Aerojet property. The Decision also includes cleaning up the first of many contaminated **source areas** on the Aerojet property. From August 3 through September 1, 2009, EPA held a 30-day comment period on the **Proposed Plan** for OU-5 to receive written public comments, and on August 9, 2009 presented the Plan at a public meeting in Rancho Cordova to record verbal comments from the citizens who attended. EPA carefully considered all of the nearly 200 comments received and prepared a responsiveness summary that is included in the ROD. All words that appear in **bold** are defined in the Glossary on page 2.

### Background

The Aerojet Site is divided into seven sections, called **operable units** (OUs), due to the overall large size and complexity of the cleanup effort and to allow us to focus on the most critical threats first. The scope and definition of the current Aerojet OUs were developed as part of a 2002 legal document called a **Partial Consent Decree** (PCD). Due to the impact of contaminated groundwater on public drinking water supplies, the Aerojet Site cleanup strategy gives priority to containing and cleaning up the contaminated groundwater extending beyond the Aerojet Site property, followed by cleaning up on-property contaminated soil and groundwater. The containment and cleaning up of contaminated groundwater surrounding the Aerojet Site is divided into two OUs. The ROD for Western Groundwater Operable Unit (OU-3), which was signed on July 20, 2001, addresses groundwater contamination and loss of drinking water supplies in some of the most populated areas. The remaining contaminated groundwater around the boundary of the Aerojet property is addressed in this ROD. The scope of the on-property soil and groundwater remediation effort will require at least five additional OU cleanup plans. These cleanup actions are large and complex and take many years to fully construct.

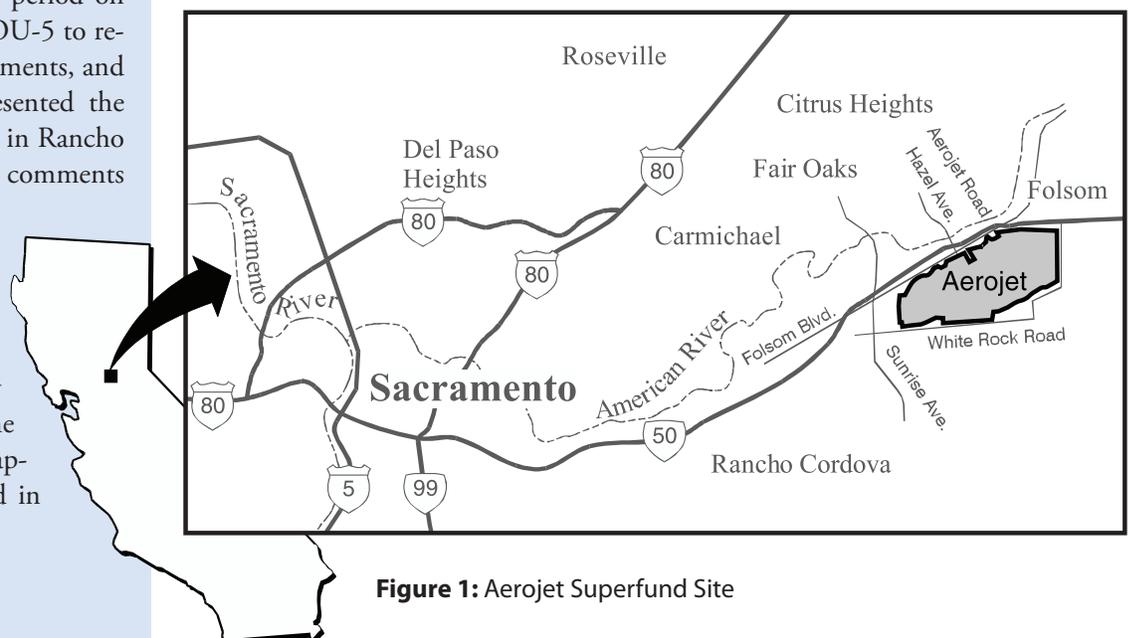


Figure 1: Aerojet Superfund Site

The cleanup action for OU-5 groundwater addresses contaminated groundwater on the north and south sides of the Site. As part of the 2002 Partial Consent Decree a number of areas suspected of having contaminated soil along the outer boundary of the Aerojet property were also addressed as part of OU-5.

## Selected Cleanup

The OU-5 cleanup decision is to complete a system to pump groundwater at the outer edge of the contaminated area to prevent further spread of contaminated groundwater. This system will be improved by pumping additional water from more heavily contaminated areas near the Aerojet property (see figure 2). EPA considers this an interim groundwater remedy since final cleanup relies on eliminating source areas to be addressed in future OUs. Implementing the cleanup action for OU-5, in conjunction with the existing OU-3 cleanup to the west and other state enforcement actions to the south will fully contain groundwater contamination around the boundary of the Aerojet Site. Together, the containment actions at OU-3 and OU-5 will pump and treat over 20 million gallons of contaminated groundwater every day to prevent the loss of additional drinking water supplies in a populated area dependent on groundwater supplies.

The soil cleanup for OU-5 is a final remedy. Seventeen of the 28 soil areas investigated as part of OU-5 had no significant contamination. However, four soil areas require excavation of contaminated soil to allow residential use, and another four areas will require a system to extract solvent vapors to reach cleanup standards (see figure 2). Three other soil areas show effects from chemicals migrating from source areas that are in other operable units, and controls on uses of these lands will be needed until future OU cleanups stop the source.

## Next Steps

EPA is overseeing the Aerojet Chemical Company to design and construct the groundwater and the soil cleanup, and actively consulting with the state, local water agencies and the Community Advisory Group for the Aerojet Superfund Site. To participate in the Advisory Group, please see the contact information below. We closely monitor a large number of groundwater monitoring wells and require regular evaluations of the effectiveness of the groundwater containment system. Every five years we conduct a formal, public review of the project to ensure that it is providing the expected level of protection. For the remaining source OUs on the Aerojet property, EPA continues to investigate and evaluate options to address both groundwater and soil contamination. As plans are developed for dealing with the source OUs, EPA will prepare a series of additional Proposed Plans to seek public input before making a determination on the best cleanup options.

## Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group for Aerojet Superfund issues meets bimonthly to exchange information with regulatory agencies and Aerojet on the current status of and community concerns regarding the investigation and cleanup of area groundwater contamination. To get further information on this group, contact Janis Heple, Chairperson, at (530) 757-8602.

## Glossary

**Administrative Record File** – is a compilation of documents which form the basis for selecting a CERCLA response action for the site.

**Contaminants** – Any chemical, biological or related substance that has an adverse effect on human health or the ecological environment.

**Groundwater** – A supply of water found below the ground surface, usually in aquifers.

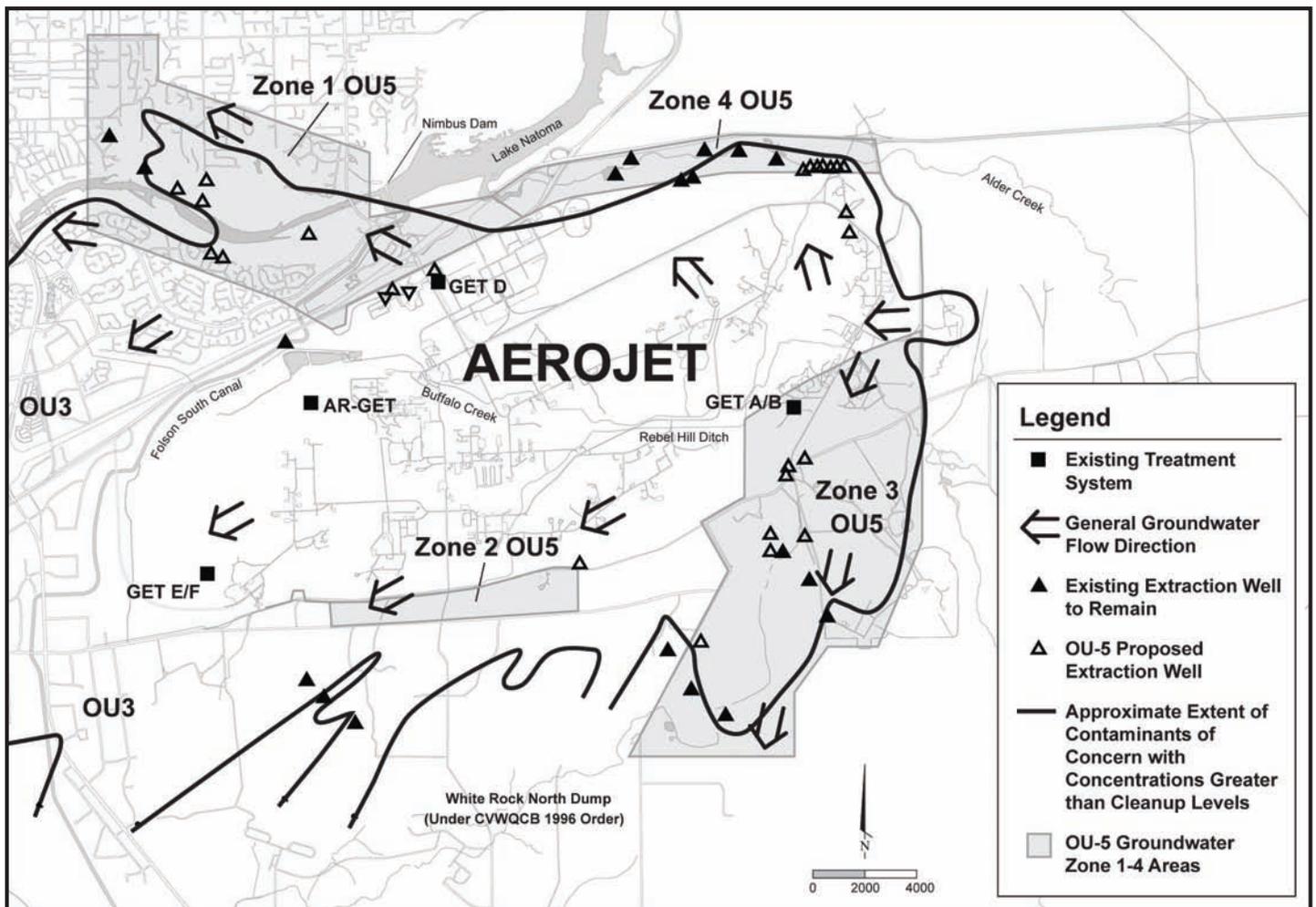
**Operable Unit (OU)** – At large and/or complex sites the remediation may be broken into two or more parts or pieces, each designated an Operable Unit, which are numbered consecutively (e.g., OU1, OU2, etc.).

**Partial Consent Decree (PCD)** – is a judicially enforceable agreement between EPA and a potentially responsible party (PRP) or multiple parties (PRPs) that requires the PRP to perform specific activities leading to a cleanup of the site.

**Proposed Plan** – is a proposal required by the NCP for remediation of part or all of a site after completing an RI/FS. The Proposed Plan is provided to the public for comment.

**Record of Decision** – is a decision document required by the NCP which specifies a selected remedy for all or part of a CERCLA site after public comment on the proposed plan.

**Source Area** – is a soil or groundwater location which has a large amount of contamination that continues to distribute contaminants into other areas.



**Figure 2:** Location of OU-5 study areas (shaded), extent of contaminant plume and groundwater remedial actions

## Site Information Repositories

Below are the locations of the Aerojet Site information repositories. These locations house the **Administrative Record** and documents that help EPA make cleanup decisions about the Site.

### Sacramento Central Library

8281 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 264-2700

### California State University

Sacramento Library (Reference Desk)  
2000 State University Drive East  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6039  
(916) 278-5673

### EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street, 4th floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000



For more information on the Site and related documents visit the web page at: [www.epa.gov/region09/Aerojet](http://www.epa.gov/region09/Aerojet)



# Aerojet General Corporation Superfund Site

EPA Selects Cleanup Plan for Operable Unit 5 of the Aerojet General Corporation Superfund Site

## Contact Information

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Kevin Mayer**, SFD-7-2  
Remedial Project Manager  
OUs 3 and 5  
(415) 972-3176  
[mayer.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:mayer.kevin@epa.gov)

**Jackie Lane**, SFD-6-3  
Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
(415) 972-3236  
[lane.jackie@epa.gov](mailto:lane.jackie@epa.gov)

**Gary Riley**, SFD-7-2  
Remedial Project Manager  
OUs 4 and 6-9  
(415) 972-3002  
[riley.gary@epa.gov](mailto:riley.gary@epa.gov)

**U.S. EPA**  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94105  
**Fax:** (415) 947-3528  
**Toll-free:** (800) 231-3075  
Leave a message

### Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Alex MacDonald**  
Project Manager  
(916) 464-4625

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Ed Cargile**  
Project Manager  
(916) 255-3703

### Aerojet Community Advisory Group

**Janis Heple**  
Chairperson  
(530) 757-8602

---

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Jackie Lane (Aerojet 9/11)

---

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

*Official Business*  
*Penalty for Private Use, \$300*

*Address Service Requested*