



San Fernando Valley Superfund Sites

Region IX, San Francisco

August 1993

Fact Sheet Number 12

STATUS UPDATE FACT SHEET

Federal, state, and local agencies have been investigating and cleaning up groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley since the problem was first discovered in 1979. This fact sheet provides an update of recent and future activities conducted under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund program.

Site Specific Cleanup Activities

EPA has been evaluating and constructing individual cleanup plans to address the most immediate contamination problems. These individual cleanup actions are called operable units (OUs). Operable units have been designated for North Hollywood, Burbank, Glendale North and South, and Pollock areas. The results of studies for each operable unit will be integrated into the long-term basinwide cleanup plan. The following is a description of the status of each of the OUs. Figure 3 on page 5 shows the status of each of the OUs within the Superfund process.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD OPERABLE UNIT

In early 1989, EPA and the State of California, in cooperation with LADWP, completed construction of

a groundwater extraction and treatment facility to inhibit migration of contamination and begin to remove VOCs within a portion of the North Hollywood site. The facility began extracting and treating water on a 24-hour basis in December 1989. The treated water, which meets state and federal drinking water standards, flows through a pipeline to LADWP's North Hollywood Pumping Station for distribution to the public.

EPA paid 90% and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) the remaining 10% of the construction costs of the facility. EPA is now paying 90% and LADWP is paying 10% of the operation and maintenance costs. EPA intends to recover the costs incurred during the investigation, construction, and operation of the North Hollywood operable unit from potentially responsible parties (PRPs) in the North Hollywood area.

BURBANK OPERABLE UNIT

In June 1989, EPA signed the Record of Decision for the Burbank Operable Unit, selecting a cleanup remedy involving the extraction and treatment of 12,000 gallons per

(Continued on page 4)

BACKGROUND

The San Fernando Valley Superfund site is located in the eastern portion of the San Fernando Valley, between the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains. The San Fernando Valley is an important source of drinking water for the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Cities of Glendale, Burbank, and San Fernando, La Cañada-Flintridge, and the unincorporated area of La Crescenta.

In 1980, after finding organic chemical contamination in the groundwater of the San Gabriel Valley, the California Department of Health Services (DHS) requested all major groundwater users to conduct tests for the presence of certain industrial chemicals in the water they were serving. The results of testing revealed volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination in the groundwater beneath large areas of the San Fernando Valley. The primary contaminants of concern are the solvents trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), widely used in a variety of industries including metal plating, machinery degreasing, and dry cleaning.

TCE and PCE have been detected in a large number of production wells at levels that are above the Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), which is 5 parts per billion (ppb) for

(Continued on page 2)

BACKGROUND

each of these VOCs. The State of California MCL is also 5 ppb for TCE and PCE. MCLs are drinking water standards. Other VOC contaminants in the San Fernando Valley have also been detected above Federal and/or State MCLs. As a result of the groundwater contamination, many production wells have been taken out of service. The water agencies of the San Fernando Valley closely monitor the quality of drinking water delivered to residents. **The water meets all federal and state requirements and is safe to drink.** Due to groundwater contamination, much of the drinking water delivered to residents is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), of Southern California.

Nitrate, an inorganic contaminant, has also been detected in the groundwater in the San Fernando Valley, consistently at levels in excess of the MCL of 45 ppm. Nitrate contamination may be the result of past agricultural practices and/or septic system or ammonia releases.

State and local agencies acted to provide alternative water supplies and to investigate and clean up potential sources. EPA and other agencies became involved in coordinating efforts to address the large-scale contamination. In 1984, EPA proposed four sites for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL): North Hollywood, Crystal Springs, Pollock, and Verdugo. The original boundaries of these sites were based on drinking water wellfields that

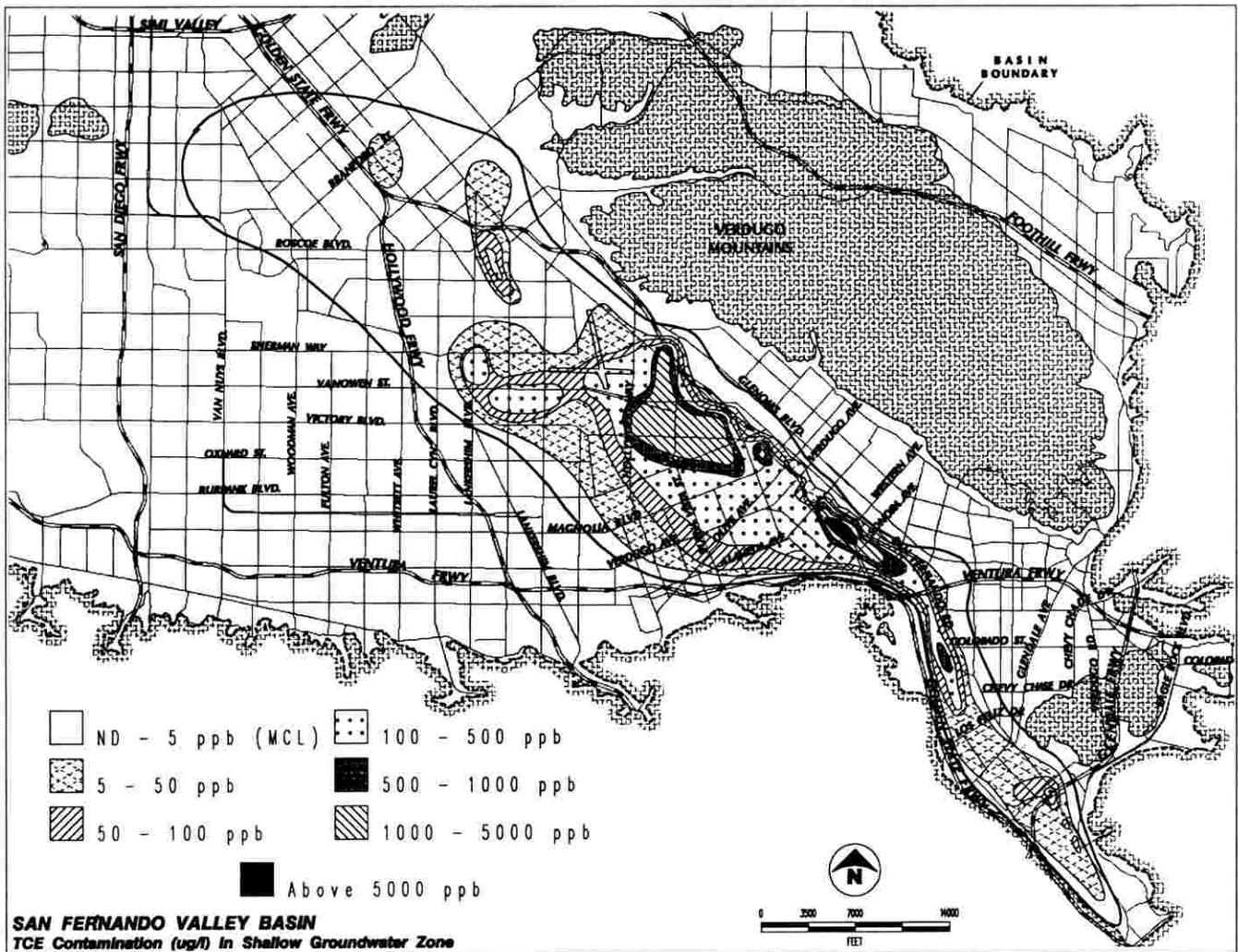


Figure 1. TCE Contamination Plume

BACKGROUND

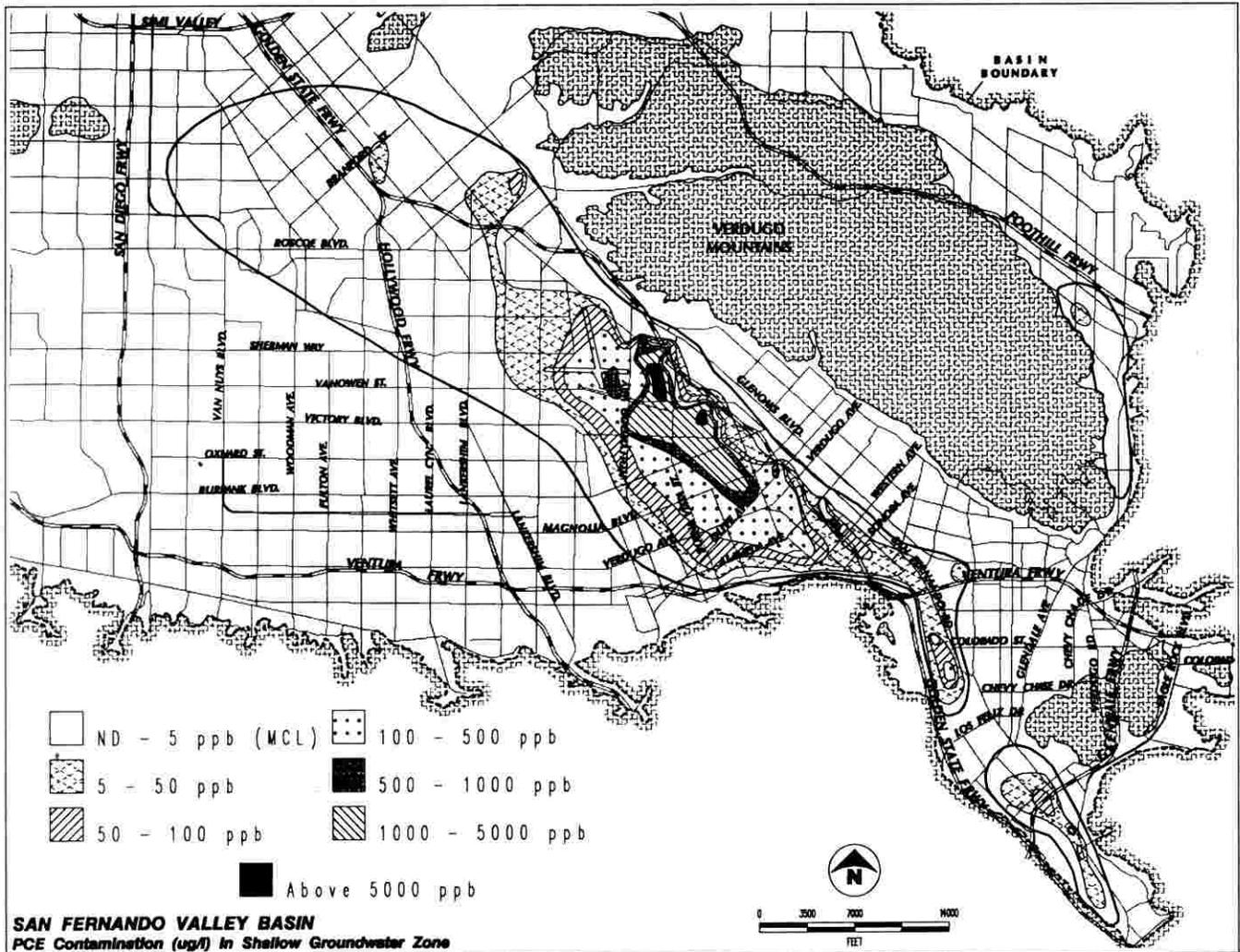


Figure 2. PCE Contamination Plume

were known to be contaminated by VOCs in 1984. In 1986, the four sites were included on the NPL. EPA manages the four sites and adjacent areas where contamination has (or may have) migrated as one large site called the San Fernando Valley Superfund Site. EPA uses the perimeter of the groundwater contamination plume as the boundary for the San Fernando Valley Superfund site. This has allowed the agency to pursue a more comprehensive approach for the investigation and cleanup of the contamination. Figures 1 and 2 show the TCE and PCE groundwater contamination plumes in the San Fernando Valley.

In 1987, EPA and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) signed a Cooperative Agreement

providing federal funds to perform a remedial investigation (RI) of groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley. EPA is coordinating the large-scale effort for subsequent groundwater monitoring and the basinwide groundwater Feasibility Study (FS).

EPA has divided the San Fernando Valley Superfund Site into five operable units (OUs) to accelerate the investigation and cleanup of the study area. Each OU represents a discrete, interim containment remedy currently in progress throughout the eastern portion of the San Fernando Valley. EPA has signed Record of Decision (ROD) documents for four OUs in the San Fernando Valley: North Hollywood OU (1987), Burbank OU (1989), and Glendale North and South OUs (1993). The North Hollywood OU Interim Remedy is

BACKGROUND

(Continued from page 3)

currently operating. The Burbank OU is in the remedial design phase. The RODs for the Glendale North and South OUs were recently signed and these OUs will be entering the remedial design phase in the near future. A remedial investigation to determine the need for a possible fifth OU in the Pollock area is currently underway. All remedial actions established by EPA in the Records of Decision issued to date are interim measures but are intended to be consistent with the overall long-term remediation of the San Fernando Valley. EPA has not yet selected a final remedy for the entire San Fernando Valley.

Local water suppliers and state agencies are ensuring that drinking water meets all state and federal standards. Due to the use of alternative water supplies and regular testing by local water suppliers, public drinking water in the San Fernando Valley is safe to drink.

Site Specific Cleanup Activities

(Continued from page 1)

minute (gpm) of VOC-contaminated groundwater. The treated water will meet all MCLs and secondary drinking water standards, except for nitrate. The treated water will be disinfected and then blended with water which does not contain nitrate in excess of the MCL to reduce nitrate levels and meet the MCL. The treated water will be de-

livered to the City of Burbank for distribution. Excess treated water will be reinjected back into the groundwater.

A Consent Decree became effective on March 25, 1992 between EPA, Lockheed Corporation, Weber Aircraft and the City of Burbank to design and construct the extraction and disinfection facilities. An Administrative Order was issued to six additional responsible parties to design and construct the blending facilities.

The extraction and treatment facilities will be designed and constructed in three phases. Phase I will extract and treat 6,000 gpm and is estimated to be operational in April 1994. Phase 2 will extract and treat an additional 3,000 gpm and is estimate to be operational in April 1996, and Phase 3 will treat another 3,000 gpm and will be operational by April 1998. The Consent Decree and Administrative Order also include operation and maintenance of the facilities for two years after Phase 3 is operational.

EPA is still conducting source investigations and developing technical cases and intends to begin negotiations with PRPs for the long-term operation and maintenance of these treatment facilities (for an additional 18 years) in 1994.

GLENDALE OPERABLE UNIT

In late 1989, during the basinwide groundwater remedial investigation (RI), EPA found elevated concentrations of VOCs in the groundwater of the Glendale area of the San Fernando Valley. In the Spring of 1990, EPA commenced an RI of the Glendale area and by early 1991

when the RI was complete, it was clear that there were two distinct plumes of VOC contamination in the Glendale area. These two plumes were referred to as the Glendale North Plume and the Glendale South Plume. EPA then determined that these two VOC plumes should be addressed as distinct operable unit remedies and thus separate feasibility studies were conducted to evaluate cleanup alternatives for each contamination plume.

A final remedial investigation report for both Glendale North and South OUs was completed in January 1992. The Glendale North OU Feasibility Study was completed in April 1992 and a Proposed Plan was presented to the public in June 1992. For Glendale South OU, the Feasibility Study was completed in August 1992 and a Proposed Plan was released in September 1992. Public meeting and comment periods were held for both OUs.

On June 18, 1993, EPA signed both the Glendale North and South OU Records of Decision. These RODs describe EPA's selected remedies for the groundwater contamination in the Glendale Study Area. As a result of comments by the City of Glendale on the Proposed Plans for the two OUs, indicating that the City had sufficient water credits to accept the water from both OUs, EPA determined that the treatment plants for the two OUs would be combined. This determination is documented in both RODs.

The selected remedies consist of groundwater extraction and treatment for the shallow aquifer system.

(Continued on page 6)

OU or Study Area	Site Discovery	NPL Ranking and Listing	Remedial Investigation (RI)	Feasibility Study (FS)	Public Comment Period	Record of Decision (ROD)	Remedial Design	Remedial Action	
North Hollywood OU	In 1980, contaminated groundwater was discovered by San Fernando Valley Water Purveyors through testing mandated by the State of California Department of Health Services.	In 1984, four sites within the San Fernando groundwater basin were proposed for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL), because of contamination in municipal wellfields. In June 1986, the four sites were added to the NPL.	LADWP investigated contamination in the North Hollywood OU. LADWP recommended that a groundwater extraction and treatment system be constructed.			EPA signed the Record of Decision in September 1987.	Construction of the extraction and treatment facility was completed in early 1989.	The facility began extracting and treating water on a 24-hour basis in December 1989.	
Burbank OU			EPA issued this RI report as part of the October 1988 OU Feasibility Study.	EPA released the FS for the Burbank OU in October 1988. The cleanup remedy involved extracting and treating the contaminated groundwater.	EPA had a public comment period from October to December 1988 for its Proposed Plan for the Burbank OU.	EPA signed the ROD in June 1989. An Explanation of Significant Differences was issued in November 1990. Twelve-thousand gpm of contaminated water will be extracted and treated.	EPA signed a Consent Decree with three responsible parties in March 1991 to design and construct the extraction and disinfection facility. The consent decree became effective in March 1992.	The extraction and treatment facility is expected to begin operation by April 1994.	
Glendale North OU			EPA issued the RI report for the Glendale Study Area in January 1992.	EPA issued this Feasibility Study in April 1992. The selected remedy involves treating groundwater in the shallow aquifer in the Glendale North OU.	A public comment period on EPA's preferred alternative was held from July to September 1992. A public hearing was held on July 23, 1992.	EPA signed Records of Decision for both Glendale North and South OUs on June 18, 1993. The treatment facilities for both OUs will be combined at a single location in the Glendale North OU area.	EPA intends to conduct negotiations with potentially responsible parties to pay for the design, construction, and operation of the selected remedy.		
Glendale South OU			EPA issued this Feasibility Study in August 1992. The selected remedy involves groundwater extraction and treatment.	EPA held a public comment period from October 1992 to January 1993 on the preferred alternative for this OU. A public hearing was held on October 21, 1992.	Extraction rates will be 3,000 gpm for Glendale North and 2,000 for Glendale South.				
Pollock Study Area			EPA is currently conducting a site assessment of the Pollock Study Area to determine if RI/FS activities are appropriate for this study area.						
Basinwide Study Area	EPA issued the Basinwide Groundwater RI in December 1992.	EPA is currently conducting the Basinwide Groundwater and Vadose Zone Feasibility Studies.							

 Completed  Current or To Be Done

Figure 3. Where the OUs Are Within the Superfund Process

Site Specific Cleanup Activities

(Continued from page 4)

The treatment facilities for both OUs will be combined at a single location in the Glendale North OU area. Combining the treatment facilities will save resources, accelerate the start of remedial action, and allow EPA to conduct one negotiation with a combined pool of PRPs.

Under the selected remedy, groundwater will be extracted at a rate of 3,000 gpm for Glendale North and 2,000 gpm for Glendale South for 12 years. New extraction wells will be installed at locations that most effectively inhibit the migration of the contamination plumes. The extracted water will be treated for VOCs using either air stripping or liquid-phase granular activated carbon (GAC). If air stripping is chosen, then vapor-phase GAC adsorption will be used to control air emissions.

The extracted water will be treated to meet all MCLs and secondary drinking water standards, with the exception of nitrate. The MCL for nitrate will be met by blending with water which does not contain nitrate in excess of the MCL. The treated and blended water will then be conveyed to the City of Glendale for distribution through its public water supply system. If Glendale does not accept all or part of the treated water, the water will be offered to another municipality and/or re injected into the basin or recharged at the Headworks Spreading Ground. EPA anticipates the two OUs to be operational by 1996.

EPA is currently in the process of negotiating with PRPs to pay for the design, construction, and operation of the selected remedy, EPA's past costs associated with the RI/FS and EPA's future oversight costs.

POLLOCK STUDY AREA

The Pollock Study Area is located at the southern portion of the San Fernando Valley Basin in the vicinity of the Pollock Wellfield. EPA recently initiated a site assessment of the Pollock area because the basinwide VOC plumes extend into this area of the basin and concentrations of TCE are in the range of 50-100 ppb in the shallow groundwater. This is of particular concern because another groundwater basin, the Central Basin, is located directly downgradient of the Pollock Wellfield area and further downgradient migration could impact that basin.

EPA is currently conducting a site assessment of the Pollock Study Area based on existing data. The site assessment is expected to be completed in the Fall of 1993. Based upon the results of the Site Assessment, EPA will determine what additional RI/FS activities would be appropriate for the Pollock Study Area and whether or not an Operable Unit will be initiated. If an OU is initiated, the primary objective of such an interim remedy would likely be to contain the southern portion of the basinwide contamination plume and prevent it from migrating into and contaminating the Central Basin.

In addition, LADWP has recently announced its intention to initiate a

HOW DO

EPA uses a variety of resources to build enforcement cases, including facility specific information, groundwater and vadose zone modeling results, and results from investigations by state agencies. EPA also requests information from industrial facilities about historic property use, industrial processes, and hazardous substance handling. The goal of the enforcement program is to compel responsible parties to design, construct and operate treatment facilities and reimburse EPA for prior and any future expenditures at the site.

The enforcement process involves several components, all of which may be underway concurrently. Figure 4 is a schematic of the enforcement process.

■ INFORMATION GATHERING

Based on information obtained from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Cal-EPA/DTSC site investigations, as well as information request letters sent by EPA to individuals and/or companies regarding the use and handling of hazardous substances at the facility, EPA gathers and compiles information on facilities throughout the San Fernando Valley.

■ INFORMATION EVALUATION

EPA evaluates the information gathered to determine which parties may be held responsible for the groundwater contamination and the cost of groundwater cleanup remedies. EPA notifies parties that they are investigating activities at their site through General Notice letters. A General Notice letter notifies a party that it may be potentially liable for the investigation and cleanup of contamination. Potential sources include businesses, industries, or agencies that generate, transport, use, treat, store, or dispose of hazardous substances.

(Continued on page 8)

DOES EPA'S ENFORCEMENT PROCESS WORK?

■ LIABILITY IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION

After reviewing the information obtained from site investigations at the facility and from the information requests, EPA determines which parties should receive Special Notice letters. Parties that receive Special Notice letters are referred to as potentially responsible parties (PRPs). Special Notice letters are sent to notify the parties of their liability for the groundwater contamination. Unlike General Notice letters, which indicate that parties may be potentially liable, Special Notice letters are sent to parties that EPA has determined are potentially liable. These letters initiate a negotiation process and require a "good faith offer" by the company within 60 days of receiving the letter. In a cost recovery case, EPA sends Demand for Payment letters rather than Special Notice letters.

■ BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS

EPA then attempts to negotiate an agreement with the parties to implement the remedy and/or pay past and /or future costs.

■ IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL

If a settlement is not reached, EPA has the authority to issue a Unilateral Administrative Order or file a lawsuit against the responsible party.

What Enforcement Activities Has EPA Conducted?

Enforcement is a crucial component of Superfund activities and EPA has been actively working to get responsible parties to contribute to remedial actions in the San Fernando Valley. In September 1989, EPA signed a cooperative agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board providing funds for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional

Board) to oversee soil and groundwater investigations at individual facilities in the San Fernando Valley. The cooperative agreement has been renewed annually since 1989. If Regional Board investigations confirm soil or groundwater contamination, the facility is then referred to EPA. In addition, the Regional Board uses State funds to require and oversee individual facility cleanups. Using its enforcement authority under Superfund, EPA makes determinations regarding individuals and companies who are responsible for the groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley. Most of the source-specific investigation and source elimination will be conducted by the facilities (including PRPs) under the oversight of the Regional Board.

In 1989-90, EPA sent Special Notice letters to 32 parties for the Burbank OU. EPA settled (through a Consent Decree) with three parties and issued an Administrative Order to six of the remaining parties for partial implementation of the remedy. EPA intends to issue Special Notice letters in 1994 for negotiations of the remaining operation and maintenance of the remedy. In 1992 and 1993, EPA sent General Notice letters to 46 PRPs for 27 facilities in the Glendale North area and 19 PRPs for 12 facilities in the Glendale South area. EPA intends to pursue an Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Design for a combined Glendale North and South project.

In July 1993, EPA sent 16 Demand for Payment letters to PRPs in the North Hollywood area, for cost recovery action. EPA and the Department of Justice held a meeting with the PRPs on July 22, 1993 to discuss the strategy for negotiations of past and future costs related to the North Hollywood OU and Basinwide activities.

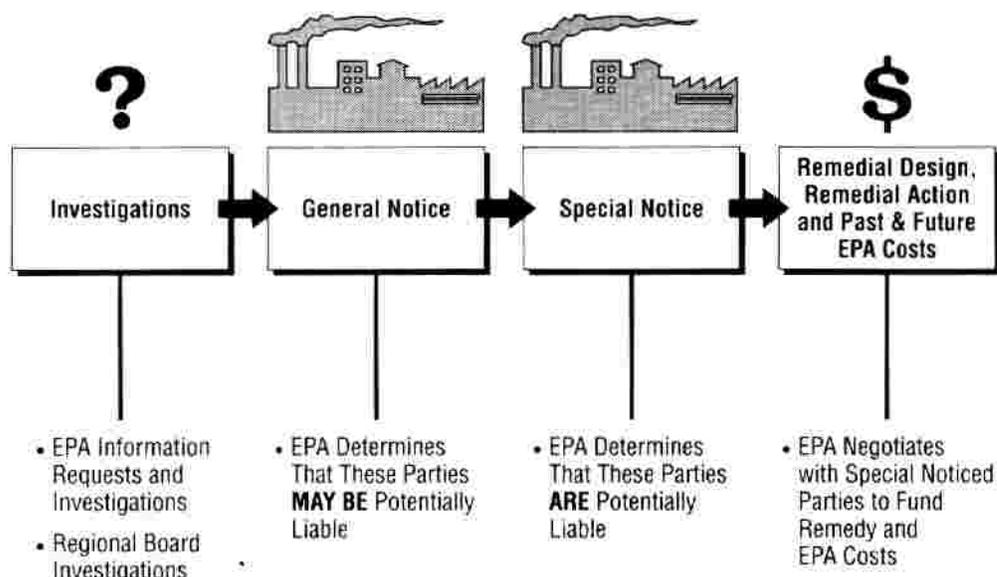


Figure 4. EPA's Enforcement Process

Site Specific Cleanup Activities

(Continued from page 6)

pump and treat project in the Pollock Wellfield. Under their proposal, a total of 3,000 gpm will be extracted from two Pollock production wells. The water will be treated and conveyed to LADWP's public water supply. While the primary objectives of this project are to protect LADWP's water rights and to supply clean drinking water to its public water distribution system, EPA will be working with LADWP to determine and evaluate the potential cleanup benefits associated with this project.

VERDUGO STUDY AREA

The Verdugo NPL site includes the contaminated groundwater in and around several wellfields located in the Verdugo Basin. The investigation of the nature and extent of contamination in the Verdugo Basin was included in the Basinwide Groundwater RI. In recent years, only the VOC perchloroethylene (PCE) has been consistently detected at concentrations at or slightly above its MCL of 5 ppb, and in only a small number of the total wells sampled. However, nitrate contamination has been found to be extensive throughout the Verdugo Basin.

EPA recently completed a site assessment for the Verdugo Basin. The site assessment, entitled *Site Assessment and Monitoring Plan for the Verdugo Basin (April 1993)*, defines the hydrogeologic framework of the Verdugo Basin and characterizes the

current and historic patterns of groundwater contamination. This site assessment is available for review at the five information repositories listed on page 11.

Due to the repeated detection of only very low levels of PCE in the Verdugo Basin, EPA has determined that remedial action in that Basin is not necessary at this time. However, EPA continues to sample its groundwater monitoring wells in the Verdugo Basin on a quarterly basis to monitor the quality of the groundwater and to observe any changes in the extent of contamination.

Basinwide Activities

EPA is preparing a Basinwide Feasibility Study (FS) to analyze contamination cleanup methods that will minimize public health risks and environmental impacts. The results of the Basinwide FS will unite basinwide technical needs, the operable units, and agency roles into a statement of long-range cleanup goals and methods. The Basinwide FS includes both groundwater and vadose zone (the zone of soil above the water table) studies.

GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION

A complete investigation of groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley was conducted through a Basinwide Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI). The Basinwide RI Report was completed in December 1992 and describes the results of more than five years of investigation of groundwater contamination in the San Fernando and

Verdugo Basins through 1991. This investigation is one of the largest projects of its kind in size and complexity in the United States. This report has provided EPA a better understanding of the nature and extent of VOC contamination in the groundwater of the San Fernando Valley. The Basinwide Groundwater RI was completed by LADWP with funding and technical oversight provided by EPA.

As part of the Basinwide Groundwater RI, EPA installed 87 groundwater wells. Forty-one of these wells are sampled quarterly to monitor the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley. All 87 wells are sampled annually. EPA is using the results of the Basinwide Groundwater RI to conduct a Basinwide Groundwater Feasibility Study to address VOC contamination in the groundwater of the eastern portion of the San Fernando Valley.

EPA has completed some initial activities related to the Basinwide Groundwater Feasibility Study, including technical memoranda on water rights and water management in the San Fernando Valley and recalibration and verification of the basinwide groundwater flow model incorporating the most recent data. The updated version of the model was completed in June 1993. EPA is now reviewing and evaluating various groundwater remediation options for the basin including regional pump and treat, well-head treatment, innovative technologies and no-further-action alternatives.

(Continued on page 10)

WHO'S INVOLVED?

The San Fernando Superfund project is large and complex, requiring many agencies to work together. EPA is coordinating efforts to address groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley Basin with water supply management activities. The agencies include the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the Cities of Burbank and Glendale, the Crescenta Valley County Water District, the ULARA Watermaster, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), the Regional Board, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Representatives of these agencies meet quarterly at Management Committee Meetings to discuss issues pertaining to the San Fernando Valley Basin. Technical issues, related to RI/FS efforts, are also addressed at the quarterly meetings of the Interagency Coordinating Committee, a committee founded to implement the San Fernando Valley Basin Groundwater Quality Management Plan. The roles of some of these agencies are briefly described below.

EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has overall responsibility for cleanup and enforcement efforts at the San Fernando Valley Superfund Site. EPA is responsible for groundwater and vadose zone feasibility studies, community relations activities, and enforcement efforts. EPA is also responsible for the quarterly water quality monitoring program.

Cal-EPA

The California EPA (formerly called the Department of Health Services) is the state agency responsible for protecting the health and welfare of California residents. It requires regular testing of drinking water and has established state standards for more than 50 potential contaminants. Through its Department of Toxic Substances Control, Cal-EPA also enforces state hazardous waste cleanup requirements and oversees potential source sites. Cal-EPA also reviews EPA documents and provides input to ensure compliance with state regulations. Cal-EPA is the coordinating agency for the state and is also involved in cleanup of sites around and within the San Fernando Valley.

Regional Board

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, is responsible for the protection of surface and groundwater for the State of California. The Regional Board investigates facilities which use, store, or handle chemicals. When contamination is found, the Regional Board requires and oversees site clean-up. Through a cooperative agreement with EPA, the Regional Board has been provided funds to investigate potential sources of groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley.

LADWP

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has overall responsibility for water supply in the City of Los Angeles. It is required to provide water to its customers which meet state and federal drinking water standards. LADWP was responsible for a number of tasks under a cooperative agreement with EPA originally signed in 1987. LADWP completed the Phase 1 Basinwide Groundwater RI (December 1992) and feasibility studies for the North Hollywood OU (1986), Burbank OU (1989), Glendale North OU (April 1992) and Glendale South OU (August 1992).

Now that the basinwide groundwater RI report is final, LADWP's direct role in the overall project has decreased significantly. LADWP's continuing involvement includes preparation of cost documentation to support EPA enforcement/cost recovery actions, and coordination and consultation with EPA about the Pollock Study Area, and basinwide water management issues pertinent to remedial actions. In addition, LADWP continues to operate and maintain the North Hollywood OU treatment facility.

Burbank and Glendale

The Cities of Burbank and Glendale each provide drinking water to their residents through local municipal utilities. As water providers, each city must test water regularly and ensure that water supplies meet federal and state standards. Both cities have been closely involved in the Superfund studies. The City of Burbank is a signatory to the Consent Decree for the Burbank OU and it is likely that the City of Glendale will be a signatory to an Administrative Order on Consent for the Glendale OUs.

ULARA Watermaster

The Upper Los Angeles River Area (ULARA) Watermaster is appointed by the Los Angeles Superior Court and oversees and documents all actions that affect groundwater supply in the basin such as annual rainfall, import and export of water to other areas, and pumping of groundwater for both water supply and remediation purposes. The Watermaster is working with EPA and the Regional Board to address groundwater management issues in the San Fernando Valley.

Site Specific Cleanup Activities

(Continued from page 8)

EPA's interim actions to remove contaminants and inhibit migration from the most contaminated areas in North Hollywood, Burbank, Glendale North, and Glendale South will be major components of the basinwide cleanup plan. The Basinwide Groundwater FS will examine the need for additional actions to address the contaminants that have already reached the groundwater. EPA has been working with the San Fernando Valley water purveyors and the Upper Los Angeles River Area (ULARA) Watermaster to summarize past and future groundwater management in the San Fernando Valley.

SOILS INVESTIGATION

During 1993, EPA also initiated work on a vadose zone FS to examine ways to protect the groundwater from contaminants in the soil that could reach the groundwater in the future. As part of this FS, EPA will review and evaluate options for cleanup of VOC contamination in the vadose zone of the San Fernando Valley. EPA intends to develop a methodology for use at sites with known VOC soil contamination.

Public Involvement

EPA is committed to informing community members and other interested parties about the federal process for addressing contamination in the San Fernando Valley.

EPA encourages open communication between the public, EPA, and state and local agencies.

The Community Relations Plan for the San Fernando Valley Superfund sites was updated in August 1993. The plan was revised to reflect community relations activities conducted since its previous revision in 1990.

EPA's Proposed Plan for the Glendale North OU was prepared in the form of a fact sheet and was distributed in July 1992 to approximately 1800 individuals on EPA's mailing list for the San Fernando Valley Superfund Sites. A public meeting was held in the City of Glendale on July 23, 1992 to discuss EPA's preferred alternative for groundwater cleanup and other alternatives. EPA gave a brief presentation regarding the Proposed Plan, answered questions, and accepted comments from members of the public. A 60-day public comment period was held between July and September 1992.

In September 1992, EPA presented its Proposed Plan for addressing the south plume of groundwater contamination in the Glendale Study Area. A public meeting was conducted by EPA on October 21, 1992 to present the proposed cleanup plan for the Glendale South OU. Comments from the public were accepted through January 19, 1993.

EPA has distributed several other fact sheets, including one in March 1993 presenting results and findings from the Basinwide Remedial Investigation, and a June 1993 fact sheet announcing the selection of a cleanup remedy for the Glendale North and South Operable Units.

All of the documentation and material produced regarding the above activities is available at the five information repositories listed on page 11. In May 1992, an audit of these repositories was conducted to determine the availability and condition of the documents. Documents that were missing or in poor condition were replaced with new copies and the information repositories are now up-to-date. The administrative records for each of the OUs is at all five information repositories, although some of the administrative records are only on microfilm and some are only in hard-copy format. To view the microfilm, please see the reference desk librarian at the repositories.

The Community Work Group (CWG) that had met quarterly from March 1987 through December 1991 was discontinued in early 1992, due to lack of attendance. EPA and LADWP participated in the meetings to discuss technical issues and management strategies with interested San Fernando Valley community residents, elected officials, agency representatives, and environmental and business leaders. The group was designed to review Superfund work and provide input and feedback to EPA and other agencies involved in the San Fernando Valley cleanup. EPA also used the group as a means of information exchange with key representatives of the San Fernando Valley community.

EPA has been involved in a variety of other community relations activities, including briefings to community groups such as the League of Women Voters and area Rotary Clubs.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

EPA maintains information repositories containing fact sheets, technical documents, the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, the Community Relations Plan, the ROD, and other reference materials. If documents are not available, contact Fraser Felter, Community Relations Coordinator, at (415) 744-2181.

City of Burbank Public Library

110 North Glenoaks Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 953-9741
Contact: Andrea Anzalone
Hours: M-Th 9:30 am-9:00 pm
F 9:30 am-6:00 pm
Sat 10:00 am-6:00 pm

City of Glendale Public Library

222 East Harvard Street
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 548-2021
Contact: Lois Brown
Hours: M-Th 10:00 am-8:55 pm
F-Sat 10:00 am-5:55 pm

California State University Northridge Library

18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
(818) 885-2285
Contact: Mary Finley
Hours: M-Th 8:00 am-10:00 pm
F 8:00 am-5:00 pm
Sat 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Library

111 North Hope Street, Room 518
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 481-4612
Contact: Joyce Purcell
Hours: M-F 7:30 am-5:30 pm

The University Research Library/U.C.L.A.

Public Affairs Service
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 825-3135
Contact: Barbara Silvernail
Hours: M-F 10:00 am-7:00 pm
Sat 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

For further information about the Basinwide investigation and cleanup, contact:

Colette Kostelec/Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (H-6-4)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2253, FAX: (415) 744-2180

Fraser Felter/Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2181 or (800) 231-3075

MAILING LIST COUPON

If you did not receive this fact sheet by mail and would like to be included on the mailing list for the San Fernando Valley Superfund project, please fill out this coupon and return it to the EPA Office of Community Relations.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Return to: Office of Community Relations, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1), San Francisco, CA 94105

WHAT IS SUPERFUND?

Superfund is the commonly-used name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law enacted in 1980 and amended in 1986. CERCLA enables EPA to respond to hazardous sites that threaten public health and the environment where owners or operators are either unwilling or unable to address the contamination themselves.

Two major steps in the Superfund process are to conduct an in-depth investigation of a site (called a Remedial Investigation) and evaluate possible cleanup alternatives (the Feasibility Study). During the Remedial Investigation, information is gathered to determine the general nature, extent, and sources of contamination at a site. Using the alternatives developed during the Feasibility Study, EPA selects a preferred cleanup alternative considering the

following criteria: (1) overall protection of human health and the environment; (2) compliance with state and federal laws; (3) long-term effectiveness; (4) reduction of potency of the contamination (toxicity), ability of the contaminants to move through the environment (mobility), and the amount of contamination (volume); (5) cost; (6) short-term effectiveness; (7) how easily an alternative can be applied (implementability); (8) state acceptance; and (9) community acceptance.

Once the final cleanup plan has been selected, EPA formalizes this decision by signing a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD also contains a Responsiveness Summary, EPA's response to public comments. Design and actual cleanup activities (Remedial Design and Remedial Action) can then proceed.

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Fraser Felter

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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use,
\$300



Look for recycling symbols on products you buy. Such symbols identify recycled or recyclable products. Support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled material.

Printed on Recycled Paper