



# Omega Chemical Superfund Site

United States Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ January 2007

## OMEGA CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) have been conducting an investigation of groundwater and soil contamination at the Omega Chemical Superfund Site in Whittier, CA (Figure 1). This fact sheet discusses the ongoing activities to investigate and clean up contamination associated with the Omega site.

### Indoor Air Investigation

Indoor air sampling was initially conducted at five buildings on and near the former Omega property in May 2004 (Figure 2). Sampling results revealed that volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are primary contaminants at the Omega site, have migrated from contaminated soil and groundwater and accumulated in these buildings. The indoor VOC levels were highest in Skateland, adjacent to the former Omega property. For that reason, and because children routinely occupy the building, EPA focused its initial attention on reducing the contaminant levels in Skateland.

In December 2004, the PRPs installed air purifiers in the Skateland building to reduce the levels of indoor air contaminants, and sealed cracks in the floor that may have been acting as points of entry for vapors to get into the building. Following additional rounds of sampling at Skateland, it became clear that these interim measures were only partially successful in reducing indoor air VOC concentrations.

In April 2006, EPA issued an Action Memorandum which authorized an indoor air cleanup action at Skateland. The proposed cleanup action was sub-slab depressurization (SSD) to prevent VOC vapors from entering the building. However, in September 2006 the Omega Chemical Site PRP Organized Group (OPOG) purchased the Skateland property, and discontinued any public use of the building. It is EPA's understanding that OPOG intends to demolish the building. That being the case, EPA determined that the cleanup action at Skateland would no longer be necessary.

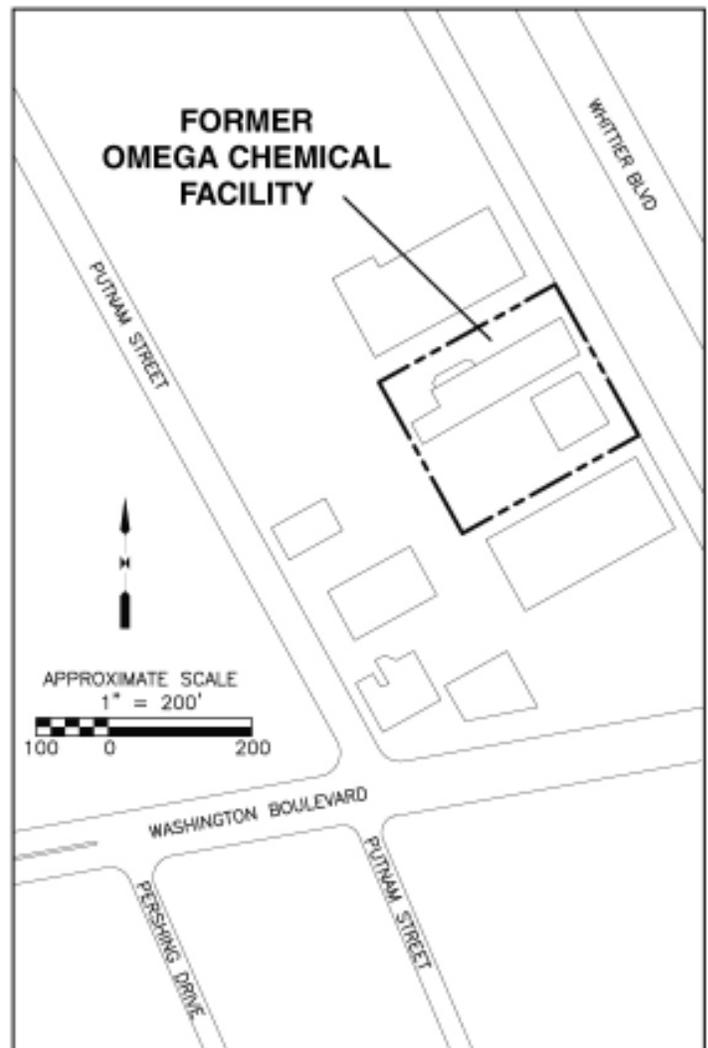


Figure 1: Location of Omega Chemical Superfund Site

In September 2006, OPOG also conducted indoor air sampling in four buildings where samples had not previously been collected. The need for indoor air mitigation in each building will be evaluated in the coming months.

## Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Activities

As of September 2006, sufficient data have been collected to complete the Remedial Investigation (RI) for Operable Unit One (OU-1) of the Omega site. The RI report will describe the nature and extent of contamination associated

with the OU-1 area. OU-1 includes the former Omega property and immediate vicinity. Based on the data collected, OPOG will prepare RI and Risk Assessment reports. The Risk Assessment report will evaluate and quantify potential risks to human health. These reports are expected to be completed in late 2007.

After EPA review and approval of the RI and Risk Assessment reports, OPOG will conduct a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate possible OU-1 soil cleanup alternatives. The final FS will be the basis for EPA's identification of a preferred cleanup alternative that

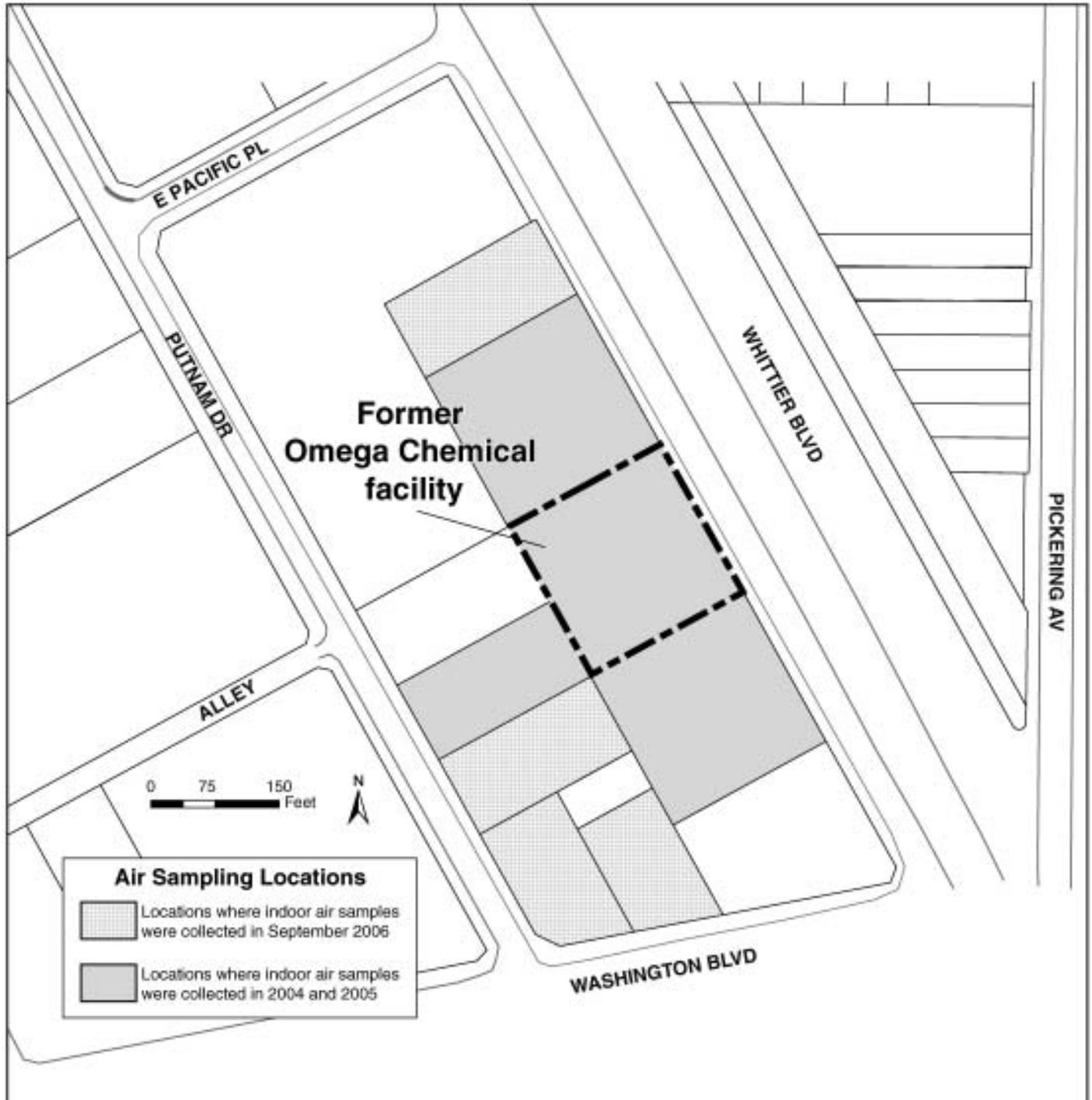


Figure 2: Air Sampling Locations

will be described in a proposed plan issued for public comment. After considering public comments, EPA will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-1. The ROD will document EPA's selected remedy and cleanup goals for the OU-1 area of the site.

OPOG conducted a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) "pilot test" in October 2006. The purpose of the pilot test was to evaluate the effectiveness of SVE in achieving contaminant removal. The results will also provide information that will help in evaluating this technology in the FS and, if selected as part of the OU-1 remedy, design of a full-scale system. SVE is frequently used to remove VOCs from contaminated soil. If effective, SVE would reduce the possibility that these vapors will further contaminate groundwater or migrate to the ground surface (e.g., into buildings).

## Interim Groundwater Pump and Treat System

In September 2005 EPA issued an Action Memorandum authorizing construction and operation of an interim groundwater extraction and treatment system on Putnam Street. The purpose of this system is to contain the highly-contaminated groundwater in OU-1 before it migrates further away from the property and becomes more costly to clean up. The groundwater extraction wells for this system

have already been installed, and OPOG conducted a pilot test for the groundwater treatment system in September 2006. The results of the pilot test will facilitate final design of the treatment system. Construction of the system is expected to be complete in the first half of 2007.

EPA is also conducting an RI for the larger Omega groundwater contaminant plume, or Operable Unit Two (OU-2), which extends over two miles to the southwest of the Omega property. Data collection for the OU-2 RI is expected to be complete in 2007.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is available for citizens who live near a Superfund site. The grant helps qualified citizen groups affected by a Superfund site to hire an independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related information. An initial grant of up to \$50,000 is available. For further information about the grant, please call us and request an application (toll-free 800-231-3075) or get it from the TAG web page: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) by typing "TAG" in the search box and pressing "GO."

## SITE INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The EPA maintains site information repositories at the Whittier Public Library and at the EPA Superfund Records Center in San Francisco. These repositories contain project documents, fact sheets, and reference materials. The EPA encourages you to review these documents to gain a more complete understanding of the site. The information repositories' locations are listed below. The EPA also has a site information web page for Omega Chemical at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/sfund/index.html>, under "Superfund Sites", then click on "Site Overviews", and scroll to the Omega Chemical site.



### EPA Superfund Records Center

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



### Whittier Public Library

7344 S. Washington Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90602  
(562) 464-3450

# OMEGA CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

## EL SITIO OMEGA CHEMICAL

**Estimado Residente:** Si prefiere este folleto en español, por favor llame 1-800-231-3075 y deje su nombre y domicilio. Se lo enviaremos inmediatamente.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Lauren Berkman**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (SFD-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Direct Line (415) 972-3292 or  
toll-free message line at 800-231-3075

**Christopher Lichens**

Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (SFD-7-4)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Direct Line(415) 972-3149 or  
toll-free message line at 800-231-3075



Printed on 30% Postconsumer  Recycled / Recyclable Paper

---

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: Chris Lichens (OC 1/07)

---

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

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

*Address Service Requested*