



McColl Superfund Site

u.s. environmental protection agency • region 9 • san francisco, california • june 2002

U.S.EPA ANNOUNCES FIVE-YEAR MILESTONE FOR THE McCOLL SUPERFUND SITE CLEANUP

November 2002 will mark five years since the cleanup of the McColl Superfund Site was completed. In November 1997, EPA conducted its final inspection and concluded that construction of the cleanup had been successfully completed.

To assure that the cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment, the Superfund law requires that a formal review of the cleanup be conducted every five years. This review is required at the McColl Site and all other Superfund sites where waste is left in place.

The purpose of the review is to investigate any changes in environmental conditions at the site and to make sure the cleanup is still effective. It provides EPA with a detailed scientific and engineering assessment of the cleanup effort.

WHAT THE REVIEW INCLUDES

- EPA will thoroughly inspect the site to determine whether construction performed and equipment installed as part of the cleanup is still working;
- EPA will identify any physical conditions which may have changed at the site over the last five years;
- EPA will review the cleanup standards which were used to select the type of cleanup at the McColl Site to determine whether they are still valid.

The outcome of the review will be a Five Year Review Report, which will become part of the site record, and which EPA will make available for review and comment.

EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON MCCOLL CLEANUP

EPA encourages members of the public to contact us with questions or comments about the McColl Site. Some of the issues about which EPA would like to hear from the public are:

- Have there been any sulfur-like odors in the surrounding neighborhoods that may be related to the site, such as the odors that initially alerted the public to a problem at the site?
- Have you noticed any runoff of water or soil from the site onto surrounding property or into the surrounding neighborhoods?
- Have there been any offensive noises or other disturbances from the gas treatment facility located at the site?

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO EPA'S REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGER

Dave Seter
U.S. EPA (SFD-7-2)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-972-3250
or toll free at **1-800-231-3075**
or email: seter.david@epa.gov

OR, you may contact
EPA's Community Involvement
Coordinator:

Vicky Semones
U.S. EPA (SFD-3),
75 Hawthorne Street,
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-972-3238,
toll free at 1-800-231-3075
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EXISTING CLEANUP MEASURES

EPA constructed containment cells to isolate the petroleum waste found on site and installed an impermeable multi-layer cover. EPA also constructed an underground network of pipes beneath the cover to collect and

EPA began the five year review inspection of the McColl Superfund Site in late May 2002 and expects to release the Five Year Review report by September 2002.

treat any gas that may be released from the petroleum waste over time. This prevents any releases that would degrade local air quality.

A groundwater monitoring network was also put in place to provide an

early warning system in the unlikely event that contamination might move off-site toward regional drinking water aquifers.

As a result of the cleanup, a portion of the capped disposal area was made available for re-use as a golf course.

CURRENT STATUS

EPA is currently operating and maintaining a gas collection and treatment plant at the site. As early as September 2002, this responsibility may revert back to the oil companies responsible for the waste. EPA and its agent at the site, the Corps of Engineers, perform routine inspections of the site a minimum of six times per year to ensure the cleanup is working as intended.

EPA is pleased to report that during the past four and a half years all indications are that the waste has been successfully contained on site.

SITE HISTORY

From 1942 through 1946, about 72,600 cubic yards of petroleum waste sludge was disposed of into 12 disposal cells at a 22-acre disposal site owned by Ely McColl in Fullerton, California. During the 1950s and early 1960s, three of the disposal cells were covered with drilling mud. In the late 1950s, six additional sumps were covered with fill during the construction of the adjacent Los Coyotes Country Club golf course.

In the 1960s, residential neighborhoods were developed on property adjacent to the disposal site. The site initially was brought to the attention of regulatory agencies in July 1978, as a result of odor and health complaints received from residents.

The Site was added to the EPA National Priority List of Superfund sites in September 1982.

CLEANUP HISTORY

On-Site Waste

In 1984, EPA proposed to excavate and dispose of waste at the site, following an investigation conducted by the oil companies identified by EPA as being responsible for the disposal of the petroleum wastes. The State of California was designated the lead agency. However, a court action later blocked the state from doing the excavation.

About this same time, a neighborhood committee, the McColl Action Group was formed. The group participated actively in decisions related to the site from 1985 through 1991, when the group disbanded. Another community group, the Fullerton Hills Community Association, was formed in 1991 and participated in site-related decisions through construction of the final remedy.

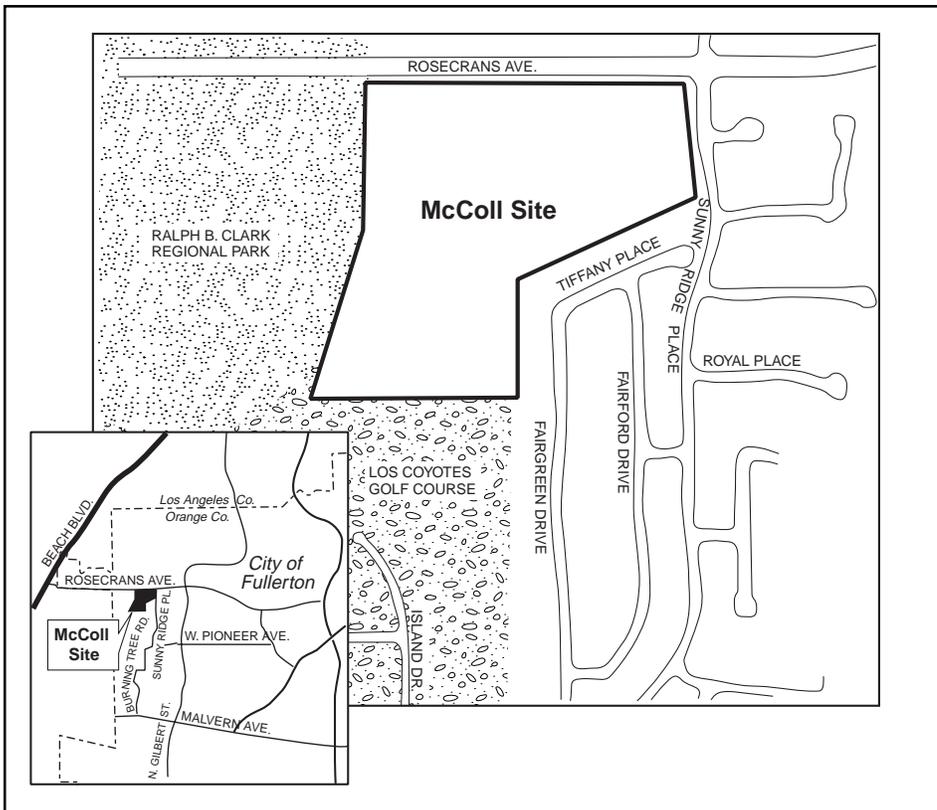


Figure 1: Location of McColl Superfund Site

EPA performed additional studies at the site and proposed incineration of the waste. Following public comment and field testing, EPA re-evaluated the alternatives and proposed solidification of the waste. When EPA concluded that solidification was not feasible at the site, it selected a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) equivalent closure system, or cap, as the means of isolating the petroleum waste. This remedy included:

- (1) constructing a multi-layer cap over the untreated sumps with a gas collection and treatment system to prevent infiltration of water and release of hazardous air emissions;
- (2) building subsurface walls around the sumps to prevent migration of water into the waste and migration of water and soluble and gaseous contaminants out of the sumps;
- (3) stabilizing of steep slopes on the site with retaining walls;
- (4) monitoring groundwater.

The cap and slurry wall, gas collection and treatment system, and site security will be operated and maintained over time at the site. The remedy is described in the *Source Record of Decision* signed on June 30, 1993.

Groundwater

Under EPA's oversight, the oil companies conducted a groundwater investigation from September 1993 to April 1996. EPA proposed a plan for the groundwater remedy on February 15, 1996. The groundwater remedy required that infiltration of water into the ground be reduced through: (a) redirecting of surface water off the site; (b) grading of areas adjacent to the containment system, and (c) lining of onsite drainage channels with low permeability materials. EPA's groundwater remedy is also in the *Groundwater Record of Decision* signed on May 15, 1996.

Construction activities, performed by the oil companies with oversight from EPA, began on July 1996 and were completed in November 1997. These activities included the following:

- Installation of subsurface cut-off walls
- Installation of an impermeable cover
- Grading to facilitate surface water control
- Erosion control measures
- Building a gas collection and treatment plant, and
- Golf course restoration activities.

Remedial Action Completed

On November 13, 1997, EPA and the California DTSC conducted a final inspection of the McColl Superfund Site. EPA determined that construction had been completed according to specifications and the remediation had been successfully executed. In April 1998, EPA approved the *Final Remedial Action Report* for the McColl site.

In August 1998, several new holes were opened at the Los Coyotes Country Club golf course on a portion of the capped disposal area made available for re-use.



MAILING COUPON

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be included on EPA's mailing list for the McColl site, please fill out this coupon and return it to Vicky Semones, U.S.EPA (SFD-3), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

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EPA SEEKS YOUR INPUT

As part of the Five Year Review
at the McColl Superfund Site,
EPA is seeking public comment
on the effectiveness of the cleanup to date.

Please see the enclosed information for further details.

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