STRINGFELLOW SUPERFUND SITE

GLEN AVON, CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • NOVEMBER 2001

U.S. EPA Issues Stringfellow Five-Year Review Results

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its five-year review of the cleanup remedy for the Stringfellow Superfund site in Glen Avon, CA. The purpose of the five-year review process is to evaluate whether the cleanup remedy is protective of human health and the environment. These reviews are conducted every five years after the start of a cleanup action.

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SUMMARY OF FIVE-YEAR REVIEW FINDINGS

The cleanup systems at the Stringfellow Superfund site are performing as they were designed to do and are containing and cleaning up those contaminants originally found on site. EPA has determined that the remedies in Zones 1, 2, and 3 (the areas north of California Highway 60) are protective of human health and environment.

However, perchlorate, a new chemical of concern at the site, is under investigation by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in the groundwater beneath the Glen Avon community area. EPA cannot make a protectiveness determination regarding the remedy in Zone 4 (Glen Avon groundwater) until the perchlorate investigation is completed in 2002.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Stringfellow site is located in Pyrite Canyon, north of Highway 60, near the community of Glen Avon, in Riverside County, California (see Figure 1). From 1956 until 1972, the 17-acre Stringfellow site was operated as a hazardous waste disposal facility. More than 34 million gallons of industrial waste, primarily from metal finishing, electroplating, and pesticide production were deposited at the site. A groundwater plume of site-related contaminants exists underneath portions of the Glen Avon area, which has a population of approximately 14,000 people.

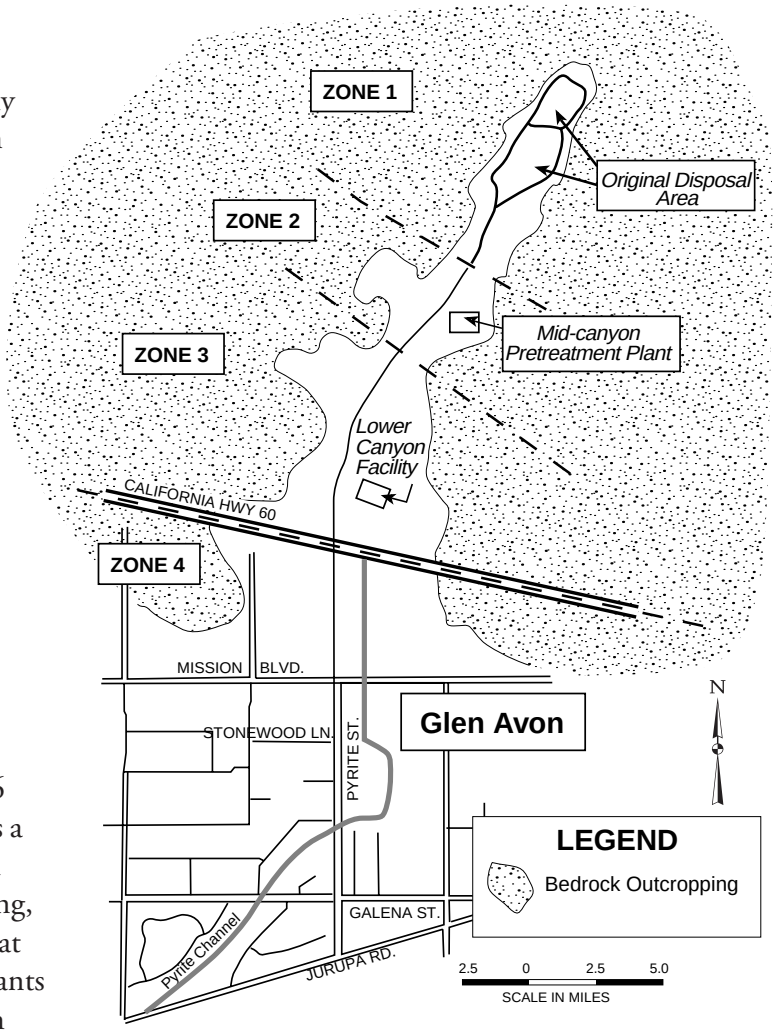

***Figure 1**: Stringfellow Superfund Site by Zone*

Groundwater at the site contains various volatile organic compounds, perchlorate, n-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), and heavy metals such as cadmium, nickel, chromium, and manganese. Soil in the original disposal area is contaminated with pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, sulfates, and heavy metals. The original disposal area is now covered by a barrier, surrounded by a fence, and guarded by security services.

Contamination at the Stringfellow site has been addressed by cleanup remedies described in four EPA Records of Decision, generally corresponding to the four zones at the site. These cleanup actions have focused on control of the source of contamination in Zone 1, installation of an onsite pretreatment plant in Zone 2, cleanup of the lower part of Pyrite Canyon (Zone 3), and cleanup of the community groundwater area (Zone 4).

ZONES 1-3 FINDINGS

Controls are in place and are effective in preventing exposure from site contamination in Zones 1, 2, and 3 to people and the environment. However, additional work is planned in these zones to optimize the controls. To improve contaminant source control, additional long-term cleanup actions will be selected and implemented in Zone 1 as part of the next Record of Decision, currently planned for September 2002.

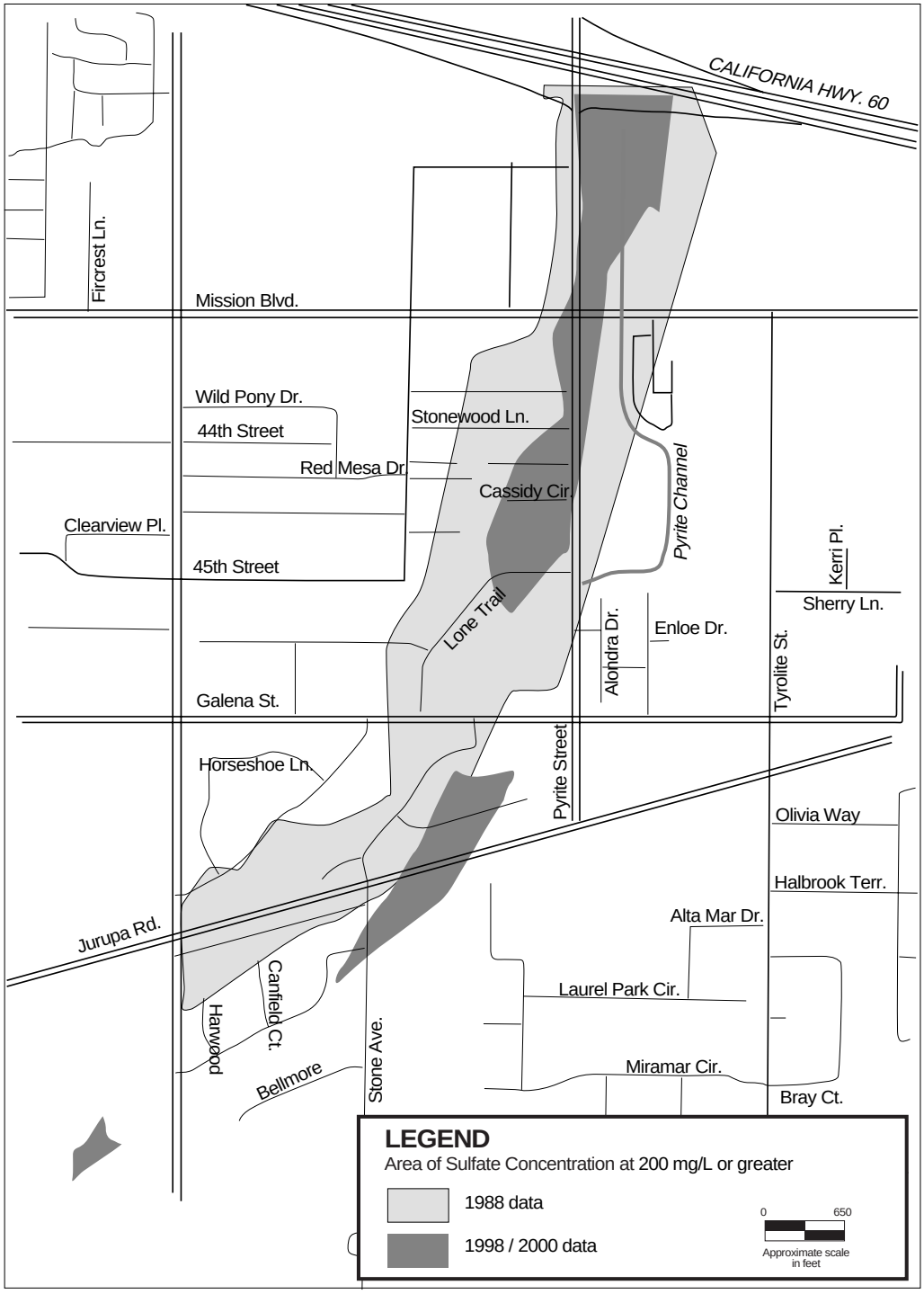

***Figure 2**: Stringfellow Zone 4 Sulfate Levels*

Studies in Zones 2 and 3 suggest that the existing extraction wells may not be capturing the deepest contaminated groundwater. A more detailed review of site conditions may be needed and the existing systems may need to be modified to accelerate contaminant capture in these zones. These improvements are currently being made by DTSC.

Nonetheless, site monitoring and remediation data clearly indicate that the

remedies in Zones 1, 2, and 3 are protective of human health and the environment.

ZONE 4 FINDINGS

In Zone 4 (the Glen Avon community area of the Stringfellow site), the groundwater extraction system is functioning as intended in the Record of Decision. To illustrate the system's effectiveness in reducing the size of the plume, Figure 2 shows the reduction in the area of sulfate contamination at the 200 milligrams per liter concentration, beginning with the data collected in 1988 and ending with the combined data from sampling events in 1998 and 2000. Figure 2 does not represent the entire plume, but does show how the concentration of contaminants has dropped over the last decade.

However, controls in Zone 4 may not completely prevent exposure to perchlorate contamination. DTSC detected perchlorate, a salt used in solid rocket fuels, in groundwater throughout the site and began an investigation in May 2001. DTSC recently identified 15 households which rely on private drinking water wells in an area of the site with perchlorate contamination. DTSC provided these households with bottled drinking water and plans to connect them to water from a public utility in nine months. In addition, DTSC anticipates that perhaps another 10 households currently relying on private drinking water wells in areas of perchlorate contamination may be identified during its investigation.

Therefore, a protectiveness determination of the remedy at Zone 4 cannot be made by EPA at this time, but will be made upon completion of the perchlorate investigation.

When sampling data from all private drinking water wells is available, EPA will compare the results to the California Department of Health Services perchlorate drinking water action level of 18 parts per billion. This comparison and the completion of the perchlorate investigation, currently scheduled for March 2002, will allow EPA to make a protectiveness determination.

A copy of the Stringfellow Superfund Site Five-Year Review Report, which contains more detailed information, has been placed in the Information Repositories listed on the back page of this fact sheet.

MAILING LIST COUPON

If you would like to be included on the mailing list to receive future mailings about the Stringfellow Superfund Site, please fill out the coupon below and return to:

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You may also provide the above information via e-mail to *Cooper.David@epa.gov* or by calling the phone numbers on the back page.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Documents, comments, and other information concerning the Stringfellow Superfund Site are available for public viewing at the EPA Information Repositories listed below or at the EPA Region 9 Superfund web site at http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/npl/siteinfo.htm.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information or to to have your name placed on EPA's mailing list, please contact:

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