

## 16th Street and Camelback Road Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site - December 2009

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater contamination at the 16th Street and Camelback Road WQARF Site. The ADEQ WQARF program, which is also known as state Superfund, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites across the state. This site is bounded approximately by Medlock Drive to the north, 17th Street to the east, Highland Avenue to the south, and 14th Place to the west in Phoenix.

### WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

The current contaminants of concern in groundwater are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA). PCE is a solvent used for dry-cleaning and also degreasing and drying metals and other solids. 1,2-DCA is a colorless, oily liquid that is primarily used to make other chemicals. Contaminants of concern at the site may change as new data become available.

### HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

Any risks associated with exposure to contaminated groundwater are principally through drinking the contaminated water. The groundwater under the site is not used in the public drinking water system. The City of Phoenix (COP) is required by law to provide water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. The COP conducts regular testing of your drinking water to ensure that standards are met and to ensure that safe drinking water is delivered to the community. For more information concerning your drinking water quality, please contact the COP Water Services at (602) 262-6251. If you are using a private well located within the boundary of the 16th Street and Camelback Road WQARF Site, please call Mike Beasley, ADEQ Project Manager, at (602) 771-4414 or toll free at (800) 234-5677. For more information about possible health issues, please call the Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health, (602) 364-3118 or (800) 367-6412.

No known soil contamination remains.

### SITE HISTORY

In 1992 and 1993, Bank One conducted environmental assessments on the vacant property located near the corner of 16th Street and Camelback Road. These investigations disclosed total petroleum hydrocarbons contaminated soil and groundwater contaminated with PCE, 1,2-DCA and benzene. Initial reports indicated that the commercial plant nursery which occupied the site at one time used fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. The plant nursery also had an underground storage tank and a vehicle service pit. A consent decree was signed in January 1994 between Bank One and ADEQ. Bank One paid a settlement to ADEQ to be used for the investigation and cleanup of the property.

ADEQ performed a soil vapor survey at the site based on information gathered in the initial reports. Petroleum contaminated soils were excavated and thermally treated on-site. At the close of the project, 405 tons of petroleum contaminated soils had been removed and treated. The soil at the southern portion of the site is no longer a concern for cleanup. In 1995, ADEQ conducted a second soil vapor survey at this site to identify the on-site sources of contaminants found in the groundwater beneath the site. Information gathered from this investigation and additional groundwater characterization activities in 1996 did not identify sources and did not establish the extent of contamination. However, it did show that the site was divided into a northern and a southern portion.

The site was listed on the WQARF registry in April 1999 due to the presence of PCE in groundwater. In May 2002, ADEQ began an Early Response Action (ERA) Evaluation at the site. An ERA is a cleanup action performed prior to the final remedy, and in this case, prior to the remedial investigation. The ERA Evaluation was designed to determine if soil vapor extraction and air sparge remediation was feasible to provide source control and clean up the PCE groundwater contamination. A pilot study was conducted to determine the feasibility of installing a vapor extraction/air sparge

remediation system. In April 2003, ADEQ received the results from the pilot study that indicated that installation of a remediation system at the site was not feasible or cost effective.

### **SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTION**

ADEQ is currently conducting an ERA on the site. A remedial investigation has not been initiated at the site. ADEQ has continued groundwater monitoring and sampling from 1996 to the present. ADEQ installed an additional well in January 2004 on the property located on the southwest corner of 16th Street and Camelback Road. The purpose of the well was to aid in defining the extent of PCE contamination. Due to declining water levels in April 2006, ADEQ installed Well MW-3A to replace Well MW-3. The purpose of Well MW-3A was to collect contamination data from the source area of the southern plume. Sampling of the southern plume indicates that the concentrations of 1,2-DCA in groundwater has decreased to below Aquifer Water Quality Standard levels for over two consecutive sampling events. The southern plume appears to have naturally attenuated (a natural process where microorganisms in the groundwater break down hazardous substances).

### **WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?**

ADEQ plans to continue groundwater sampling and monitoring when funding is made available.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Interested parties can review all site information by contacting ADEQ. With 24-hour notice, an appointment to review related documentation is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or TDD line (602) 771- 4829 to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

### **Technical Information:**

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For further information on this site or other WQARF sites, please visit ADEQ's Web site at [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov). Click on Waste Programs, then Superfund/WQARF, and follow the prompts for the information you need.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, se puede contactar a Felicia Calderon al (602) 771-4167.