

West Central Phoenix West Osborn Complex Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site - April 2010

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater contamination at the West Central Phoenix (WCP) West Osborn Complex Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site. The ADEQ WQARF Program, which is also known as the State Superfund Program, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state. This site is bounded approximately by the Grand Canal to the north, 31st Avenue to the east, McDowell Road to the south and 55th Avenue to the west.

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

The main contaminants of concern at this site are tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). PCE is a manufactured chemical widely used for dry cleaning and metal degreasing. TCE is a colorless liquid used as a solvent, metal degreasing agent, and in other industrial applications. Other contaminants at the site include methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and nitrates. 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 this site is not used in the public drinking water system. If you are connected to a public drinking water system, your public water provider is required by law to provide water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. The City of Phoenix conducts regular testing of your drinking water to ensure the standards are met and to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to the community. For more information on your water quality, contact the Phoenix Water Services Department at (602) 262-6251. If you have a private well near the site, please contact the ADEQ Project Manager at (602) 771-4186. There is currently no known threat of direct exposure to the public from the contamination at the site.

SITE HISTORY

ADEQ has been conducting an investigation in the WCP area to learn more about potential soil and groundwater contamination since it was made a state superfund site

under WQARF in 1987. The West Osborn Complex (WOC) Site was placed on the WQARF Registry in 1998 with a score of 47 out of a possible 120. The West Osborn Complex site was originally one large property (about 15 acres) located near 35th Avenue and Osborn Road. From the late 1950s to the mid-1970s, companies at the property manufactured electronic components. These businesses used TCE and other chemicals in the production and cleaning process. ADEQ learned that large quantities of TCE and other wastes were disposed of in septic tanks and seepage pits at the WOC property from the late 1950s until the late 1960s. TCE was also dumped onto the ground. Volatile organic compounds were first detected in groundwater in the WCP area in July 1982. In 1996, United Industrial Corporation (United) entered into a consent agreement with ADEQ to conduct the remedial investigation and feasibility study at the site, and pay oversight costs.



SVE System at the WOC Facility.

INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTIONS

From 1999-2002, United operated a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system to remediate contamination beneath the property. In 2004, United completed the soil cleanup and permanently shut down the SVE system. In 2006, groundwater samples showed concentrations of TCE above the regulatory standard. To address the extent of shallow groundwater contamination, additional monitor wells were installed in June. In 2007, ADEQ, in conjunction with United, agreed that the deep and shallow aquifers would be

remediated separately. Drilling activities commenced in September and results from those wells were incorporated in the feasibility study for the shallow plume. United continued to monitor groundwater quality in 2008 and 2009 and completed drafting feasibility study reports for the shallow and deep aquifers in 2009. There are no cleanup actions being taken by ADEQ at this time.

WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

Due to current budget constraints, all work at the site has been temporarily suspended. ADEQ plans to continue groundwater sampling and monitoring when funding is made available. United continues to monitor groundwater quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Interested parties can review site information at the ADEQ main office located at 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 to schedule an appointment with 24-hour notice to review these documents. Once all documents requested have been collected, you will be contacted for a review 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, AZ.

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

Technical Information:

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*In Arizona, but outside of the Phoenix area, call toll-free at (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771- 4186.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, comuníquese con Felicia Calderon al (602) 771-4167.