

Tyson Wash Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site July 2010

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has completed its investigation of groundwater contamination at the Tyson Wash WQARF Site. The ADEQ WQARF Program (also known as the state Superfund Program) investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil at sites across the state. The Tyson Wash WQARF Site is bounded by West Sunset Street to the north, Oregon Avenue to the west, Main Street (Business I-10) to the south, and North Central Boulevard (State Route 95) to the east in the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona.

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (COC) AT THE SITE?

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PCE), a solvent commonly used in dry cleaning clothes and as a metal degreaser, and the chlorinated cleaning solvent trichloroethene (TCE). COC 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 currently used in the public drinking water system. The PCE contamination currently appears to be limited to groundwater in the upper aquifer located approximately 40 to 70 feet below the land surface. This aquifer is no longer used as a source of drinking water for the area. The Town of Quartzsite as a drinking water provider is required by state and federal law to meet all regulatory drinking water standards.

NOTE: If your drinking water is provided by the Town of Quartzsite, it meets all regulatory drinking water standards.

There are 544 registered private wells within an approximately one-half mile radius of the site. Nineteen privately owned wells are located within or on properties located immediately adjacent to the site. Seven of the wells have been impacted by



Drilling Rig at Tyson Wash Site.

the volatile organic compound (VOC) plume under investigation by ADEQ. The residents within the site are now connected to the Town of Quartzsite water system. Groundwater from the impacted wells may only be used for irrigating yards and trees. The lower aquifer, 500 feet below ground surface (bgs), has shown no evidence of contamination to date.

The Town of Quartzsite distributes water and sewer services to the residents within the site. Drinking water provided by the Town of Quartzsite must meet all state and federal drinking water standards. For more information concerning your drinking water quality, please contact the Town of Quartzsite Utility Department at (928) 927-3337.

If you live within one-half mile of the site and own a domestic well and need more information, please call the ADEQ Project Manager, Mike Beasley, at (602) 771-4414 or, toll-free at (800) 234-5677 Ext: 771-4414.

For more information about possible health issues, please call the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health, at (602) 364-3118 or (800) 367-6412.

SITE HISTORY

During a 1993 underground storage tank investigation, VOCs were detected in groundwater samples collected from wells on what is now designated as the Tyson Wash WQARF Site. In 1995, ADEQ tested several private drinking water wells in the area and detected PCE and TCE.

ADEQ established a groundwater monitoring program in the Tyson Wash area in 1995 to further investigate the extent and degree of the contamination. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed by ADEQ. Additional site investigations were conducted between 1996 and 1998. Soil and soil vapor samples were collected at various locations in an effort to determine the source of contamination. In December 1998, the Tyson Wash site was placed on the WQARF Registry with a score of 46 out of a possible 120.

CLEANUP ACTION/ RECORD OF DECISION

In 2001, the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report was completed which identified the extent and nature of the contamination. A Land and Water Use Study was completed as part of the RI. The information in the report was used to select the remedial objectives (ROs).

The Feasibility Study identified and evaluated cleanup methods that met the ROs of the site and was completed in December 2007. In June 2008, the Proposed Remedial Action Plan, which detailed the proposed cleanup action, was completed.

In August 2009, the Record of Decision (ROD) was presented to the Community Advisory Board (CAB) at its final meeting. The ROD outlines the selected cleanup method. The selected cleanup remedy (the pump and treat system), which is managed by ADEQ, continues to operate and has reduced PCE and TCE contamination in the treatment area. Approximately 1.3 pounds of VOCs have been removed.

WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

The site is currently in the operations and maintenance phase of the ROD. It is anticipated that the treatment system will operate until approximately 2032 or until the PCE and TCE concentrations in groundwater are consistently below the Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standard of 5.0 parts per billion.

ADEQ CONTACTS

Technical Information:

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Community Involvement:

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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 ADEQ, Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ. Please contact (602) 771-4380 to schedule an appointment to review these documents. Documents can also be viewed at the Quartzsite Public Library. Please call (928) 927-6593 for business hours.

For more information on this WQARF site or others sites in Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: www.azdeq.gov. In the left hand column, click on Waste Programs, then Superfund/WQARF. Look for site information and map link.

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