

Information Repositories

Two information repositories hold the third five-year review report, as well as other relevant documents, for Sola Optical USA, Inc:

Petaluma Public Library

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Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat:
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St.,
Room 403
Mail Stop SFD-7C
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000
Mon-Fri:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Find it on the Web... You can obtain the Five-Year Review Report, as well as other site information, from EPA's Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/solaoptical>



For More Information

If you have questions about the Sola Optical Superfund Site or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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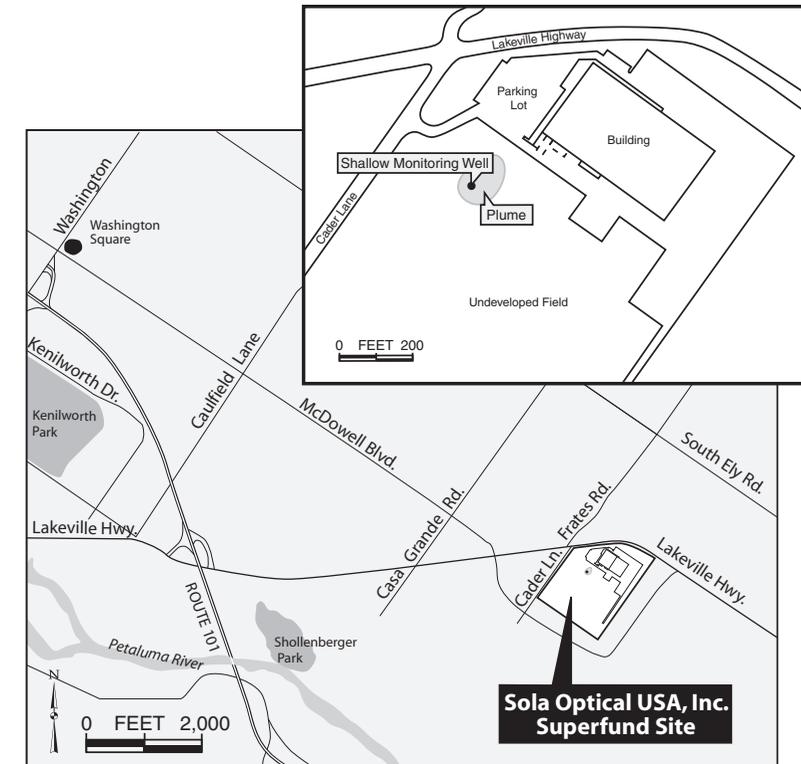


Sola Optical Superfund Site

February 2011

EPA Reviews Cleanup of Site

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its third five-year review for the Sola Optical USA, Inc. Superfund Site (Site) in Petaluma, California. The purpose of the five-year review process is to evaluate whether a Superfund cleanup remedy is still protective of human health and the environment.



Sola Optical Superfund Site location

Summary of Five-Year Review Findings

This five-year review was completed in September 2010. The first and second five-year reviews for this Site were completed in September 2000 and September 2005, respectively; and the next five-year review will be performed in 2015, if necessary.

The cleanup for this site is still underway. When it is completed, all contaminant levels will meet the cleanup standard, and use of the property and underlying groundwater will not be restricted or limited. In this five-year review, EPA has determined that the remedy, as specified in the 1991 Record of Decision (ROD) and the 2007 ROD Amendment, is currently protective of human health and the environment. Groundwater contamination has been reduced below the cleanup standard in all but a very limited area around one well, and no one is currently being exposed. However, the five-year review identified follow-up actions that will be taken, including:

1. Properly implementing permitting restrictions under the County of Sonoma – Permit and Resource Management Department Permits Plus system.
2. Determining whether a restrictive covenant is needed to prevent groundwater use.

The Sola Site will continue to have Five-Year Reviews in the future until the residual contamination in the groundwater at the Site achieves the clean-up standard.

Cleanup Remedy Selected in 1991 ROD

The remedy for the Site, as specified in the 1991 ROD, called for:

- Converting two deep monitoring wells to extraction wells, to prevent the movement of contaminants into the deeper portion of the aquifer;
- Constructing two additional shallow extraction wells, to reduce the clean-up time;
- Using the existing carbon filter system to treat any water discharged off-site to Adobe Creek;
- Monitoring the groundwater to confirm capture of the contaminant plume and to measure progress towards achieving the cleanup standard of 5 micrograms per liter.

In March 2007, EPA issued an amendment to the ROD and added Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) to the remedy:

- MNA to achieve groundwater clean up standards, institutional controls to protect against inappropriate use of the contaminated groundwater until the clean-up standards are achieved, and monitoring of both of the remedy components until clean-up standards are achieved and sustained for groundwater restoration.

What is Monitored Natural Attenuation?

MNA is the process by which contaminated groundwater is cleaned-up by natural forces. Natural forces include various physical, chemical and biological processes that act without human intervention to reduce contaminants in groundwater. At the Site, contaminant levels are closely monitored to make sure attenuation is actually occurring.

Site Background

Sola Optical USA, Inc. manufactured optical lenses on a 35-acre site from 1978 through 2001. Six 1,000 gallon underground storage tanks, located behind the north corner of the manufacturing building, were used for storing solvents. In 1982, the California Department of Health Services found acetone in an on-site well. Subsequently, Sola reported that soil adjacent to the six underground solvent storage tanks were contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as was the shallow groundwater beneath the facility. In 1986, the State found low levels of solvents in the Petaluma #5 City Well. The well was shut down until the groundwater cleanup could be completed. Groundwater extraction and treatment occurred at the Site from 1988 to 1997. By 1997, the groundwater extraction system was no longer reducing contamination concentrations, so it was shut down and groundwater was monitored to see if concentrations increased again. The concentrations did not increase, so in 2001, the groundwater treatment system was dismantled and MNA was used as the Site remedy.

The Sola manufacturing facility closed in October 2001, and the property was sold in 2002. The other part of the Site, an eleven acre property adjacent to the manufacturing facility, was sold to RNM Properties in 2000 for commercial development. Sola Optical, Inc., no longer owns any part of the Site. The former manufacturing facility is currently occupied by at least two different tenants, who use the main building and loading docks.

