EPA Action: Proposed NPL Listing for the Seam Master Industries and the Jervis B. Webb Co. Sites
Date of Action: September 16th, 2011.
Location: South Gate, Los Angeles County, California (I-710 Freeway Corridor)
Program Lead: Superfund Division

A 60-day public comment period is underway to receive input on EPA's proposal to add these sites to the National Priorities List. Listing on the NPL means that EPA can investigate and clean up the sites using federal funding.

Seam Master Talking Points

Background:

- From 1972 through to the present day, the site has been occupied by a facility that manufactures hot-melt adhesive tape for laying carpets. Prior to 1972, Pacific Screw Products Corporation manufactured screw products at the property until the business went bankrupt.

Overall Superfund Context:

- Listing on the NPL means that EPA can investigate and cleanup sites using federal funding. Superfund cleans up the worst sites when no other federal or state cleanup program is viable. The State of California referred the site to EPA and EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the State of California.

Why Does EPA Feel Listing is Needed at Seam Master Industries?

1. Volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethylene (TCE) have been confirmed in the soils and ground water at the site.

2. TCE was detected in on-site soils at levels up to 17 parts per billion (ppb). TCE was detected in groundwater beneath the site at levels up to 17,000 ppb. The federal Maximum Contaminant Level for TCE in drinking water is 5 ppb.

3. The full extent of the groundwater contamination needs to be fully characterized. Although the drinking water supply wells immediately downgradient of the site is located in a deeper aquifer and not currently contaminated, because the aquifers are connected, there is the potential that the drinking water wells may become contaminated.

4. Due to the high concentrations of TCE in groundwater and the relatively shallow depth to groundwater (60 feet) there is a need to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion of TCE from the site into nearby buildings and residential areas.

Why is EPA Listing this Site *NOW?*

1. In May, 2002, EPA completed a Remedial Investigation of the nearby Cooper Drum NPL site. During the Remedial Investigation, as EPA was investigating the extent of the Cooper Drum groundwater plume, EPA identified the Seam Master Industries site as an additional source of groundwater contamination in the area. Based on additional groundwater sampling, EPA determined that the groundwater

contamination from the Seam Master Industries site was commingling with the Cooper Drum plume.

2. Due to the fact that the Seam Master Industries site was impacting the Cooper Drum remedy implementation, EPA requested DTSC assume the lead on the Seam Master Industries site. DTSC requested that the property owner and operator enter into a consent order, but both declined. From 2007 until this year, DTSC was unsuccessful in attempting to compel the potentially responsible parties to conduct work at the site. Because of the lack of enforcement resources as well as the proximity of the site to the existing Cooper Drum NPL site, an EPA-lead response site, DTSC requested that EPA assume the lead for this site to ensure that investigation work continues and cleanup work begins.

3. South Gate is one of several densely populated communities closest to the I-710 Freeway, where the effects of pollution are disproportionately higher than in other areas of Los Angeles County. Approximately 1 million people, about 70% of whom are minority and low-income households, are severely impacted by pollution from industrial activities in the area and goods movement along the nearby freeway.

4. Federal, state and local regulatory agencies have formed an Enforcement Collaborative in the 710 Corridor to focus resources over a multi-year effort to ensure that businesses and industries in this area are complying with environmental laws. U.S. EPA is joining forces with Cal/EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Air Resources Board in the Enforcement Collaborative, which is partnering with other local government and non-profit organizations to improve environmental and public health conditions in these communities. Proposing this site to the NPL supports the Enforcement Collaborative to address facilities that are impacting human health and the environment in this area.

What Will EPA do in the Future to Address the Contamination?

1. Once the Site is listed, EPA would begin the Remedial Investigation (RI) process. The primary objectives are to:

- Identify the extent of the principle contaminants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soils and vadose zone (the area between the ground surface and the underground water table) within the on-site source area;
- Define the horizontal and vertical extent of VOC contamination in groundwater on and off site.
- Due to the presence of VOCs, evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion in any buildings and residential areas located on or near the contaminated source areas and groundwater plume.

Following completion of the RI, including a human health risk assessment, the Feasibility Study (FS) would be conducted to evaluate remedial action alternatives (cleanup methods and treatment technologies) for the Site. The preferred remedy and remedial action objectives would be described in a Proposed Plan which will be published in a fact sheet and distributed to the community. The Proposed Plan would provide for a public comment period and community meeting. The selected remedy would be documented in a Record of Decision which would be implemented in the Remedial Design and Remedial Action at the Site.

Jervis Webb Talking Points

Background:

- The Jervis B. Webb Co. conducted metal fabrication, finishing, painting and assembly operations associated with the manufacture of industrial conveyor belt systems from the 1950's to early 1996 on the southeast portion of the site. In 1997, Reliable Steel, Inc. purchased this portion of the site. The Jervis B. Webb Co. purchased the northwestern portion of the site in 1975 from Spear Industries. Blake Rivet Company had been leasing this northwestern portion of the site and continued to lease the property until approximately 1981. The Blake Rivet Company produced aluminum and stainless steel aircraft rivets.

Overall Superfund Context:

- Listing on the NPL means that EPA can investigate and cleanup sites using federal funding. Superfund cleans up the worst sites when no other federal or state cleanup program is viable. The State of California referred the site to EPA and EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the State of California.

Why Does EPA Feel Listing is Needed at Jervis B. Webb Co.?

1. Volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethylene (TCE) have been confirmed in the soils and ground water at the site.

2. In 1997, TCE was detected in on-site soils at levels up to 270,000 ppb, and the contaminated soil was excavated, removed and backfilled with clean material in 1999. In 2002, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued a No Further Action letter for soil assessment and cleanup; however there was a stipulation that groundwater monitoring and investigation needed to be continued.

3. TCE was detected in the groundwater beneath the site at levels up to 35,000 ppb. The federal Maximum Contaminant Level for TCE in drinking water is 5 ppb.

4. The full extent of the groundwater contamination needs to be fully characterized. Although the drinking water supply wells immediately downgradient of the site are screened in a deeper aquifer and are not currently contaminated, there is the potential that drinking water wells may become contaminated due to aquifer interconnectedness.

5. Due to the high concentrations of TCE in groundwater and the relatively shallow depth to groundwater (60 feet) there is a need to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion of TCE from the site into nearby buildings and residential areas.

Why is EPA Listing this Site *NOW*?

1. The RWQCB requested that DTSC assume the lead on the Jervis B. Webb Co. site in 2007. DTSC issued an Order to the potentially responsible parties for the Jervis B. Webb Co. site to investigate and remediate the site, but no respondents complied with the Order. From 2007 until this year, DTSC was unsuccessful in attempting to compel the potentially responsible parties to conduct work at the site. Because of the lack of enforcement resources as well as the proximity of the site to the existing Cooper

Drum NPL site, an EPA-lead response site, DTSC requested that EPA assume the lead for the site to ensure that investigation work continues and cleanup work begins.

2. South Gate is one of several densely populated communities closest to the I-710 Freeway, where the effects of pollution are disproportionately higher than in other areas of Los Angeles County. Approximately 1 million people, about 70% of whom are minority and low-income households, are severely impacted by pollution from industrial activities in the area and goods movement along the nearby freeway.

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