



Ralph Gray Trucking Co. Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • AUGUST 2000

Westminster, California

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUNDWATER IS CLEAN

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of the results of the recent groundwater and soil sampling at the Ralph Gray Trucking Company Superfund site located in Westminster, California. In addition, this newsletter will give you information regarding an open house meeting on August 24, 2000 and other future activities.

Site Description and History

The site is located in a residential neighborhood north of the San Diego freeway (I405) and bounded by the Orange County Flood Control Channel to the south, Goldenwest Street to the west, the U.S. Navy railroad to the north, and Chestnut Street to the east.

During the 1930s Ralph Gray disposed of acid sludge, oil field wastes, and oil refinery wastes in unlined pits. Later, the Hintz Development Corporation moved the waste into two unlined trenches which later became the backyards of the homes along Kathy and Allen Streets and along the flood control channel. Based on soil and groundwater sampling, EPA determined that the waste posed a health risk to the community and started cleanup of the waste in 1992. The cleanup was completed in February 1997.

Recent Groundwater and Soil Sampling Results

Before starting the cleanup, EPA put in nine wells to determine if contamination from the waste had migrated downward into the groundwater. We monitored the wells over the years and saw no contamination in the drinking water aquifer. The shallow wells in the residential area also had no contamination, however, one shallow well in the flood control channel access road had low levels of non-harmful compounds. Since we did the cleanup several years ago, EPA has studied the area around the shallow well to ensure all of the waste had been removed. We took fifty-one soil samples along the access road and one small piece of waste, about one inch in diameter, was found and disposed of off-site. No other waste was found and the soil samples confirmed that the low levels of non-harmful compounds found in the access road soil samples, and the shallow well, are left over from the waste which was removed several years ago.

Community Open House

EPA invites you and everyone interested in the site to attend an Open House.

Thursday, August 24, 2000

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Westminster High School Cafeteria
14325 Goldenwest St.**

EPA staff will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding the work that has been done at the site and EPA's future plans. We will have bilingual staff who are fluent in Spanish and Vietnamese available.

EPA Contacts

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or leave a message on EPA's TOLL-FREE line:
1-800-231-3075 and we will return your call.

Future Plans for the Site

EPA is completing the first of several steps to officially remove the Ralph Gray Trucking Company Superfund site from the National Priorities List (NPL). Removing the site from the NPL means it is cleaned up and is no longer a Superfund site. The first step is the Final Close-Out Report which will be available at the Open House meeting in August. The Final Close-Out Report describes the history of the site and the cleanup and restoration work. If you are not able to attend the meeting and would like a copy, please contact either Diane Strassmaier or Andy Bain and we will send you a copy.

Early next year EPA will prepare a Notice to Delete document (formal paperwork) that will be available for public review and comment. We will send you a newsletter when the document is available and will have another Open House meeting to answer questions about our final steps. The last step is for EPA to delete the site from the NPL, expected next summer. We are planning to have an official event at the site to celebrate this important day for the neighborhood.

Español: Por favor, comuníquese con Andy Bain si tiene cualquier pregunta acerca del sitio peligroso o nuestra junta futura. Su teléfono es 1-800-231-3075. Habrá una traductora disponible en la junta para contestar sus preguntas y ayudarles. La junta será el 24 de agosto de 4 a 8 pm en la cafetería del colegio Westminster, 14325 Goldenwest St. Esperamos verle, Gracias!

Vietnamese: Nếu muốn thêm chi tiết về buổi họp mặt vào ngày 24 tháng 8 năm 2000, từ 4:00-8:00pm chiều, tại phòng ăn (cafeteria) của trường trung học Westminster High School, 14325 Goldenwest St., xin liên lạc Cô Carolyn Trường tại số điện thoại 1-800-231-3075. Thông dịch viên sẽ có mặt tại buổi họp để giúp quý vị.

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