

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1-2, 2005

Prepared on October 21, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 12

SUBJECT: Spills, Leaks, Investigation, and Cleanup Cases

DISCUSSION:

Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners, 272-A Mount Herman Road, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County  
[Karvn Steckling 805/542-4642]

New information is shown in italics. For additional background information please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's May 13, 2005 staff report, May 13, 2005 supplemental sheet, and September 9, 2005 staff report.

Water Board staff provides regulatory oversight of the Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners (Dry Cleaners) in Santa Cruz County, one of many high priority Spills, Leaks, Investigation, and Cleanup cases in the region.

Background:

The Dry Cleaners started site remediation of dry cleaning solvent discharges in 1996. The Dry Cleaners initially performed excavation (trenching) and vapor extraction in the source area. In March 1998, Water Board staff required the Dry Cleaners to submit a corrective action plan. Since 1998, several remediation pilot tests/interim remedial actions were conducted, including air sparging, aquifer pump testing, injection of hydrogen releasing compounds and cheese whey. The Dry Cleaners revised the corrective action plan several times based on pilot test results.

The Dry Cleaners implemented high vacuum, dual-phase extraction in March 2004 for plume containment, while they continued to evaluate other remedial alternatives for plume control. In July 2004, the Dry Cleaners submitted a revised Interim Remedial Action Plan proposing installation of three monitoring

and groundwater extraction wells downgradient of MW-9, and a permanent groundwater extraction and treatment system.

The Water Board permitted the treated groundwater discharge from the proposed system under the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Discharge of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters on May 5, 2005. The pump and treat system was fully operational by August 10, 2005.

On May 25, 2005 the Water Board issued Cleanup or Abatement Order No. R3-2005-0081 (CAO) and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2005-0082 to responsible parties. The Dry Cleaners have met the date-specific requirements of CAO No. R3-2005-0081 at this time. The installation of additional wells and submission of a Revised Corrective Action Plan following plume containment are progressing.

As required by the CAO, the Water Board received the Dry Cleaners' work plan for well installation before the July 31, 2005 deadline. This work plan proposed installing two shallow wells south of Mount Hermon Road rather than additional deep-zone monitoring wells due to budget concerns after the recent pump and treat system construction. Water Board staff responded in a letter requiring installation of additional deep-zone monitoring wells in addition to or instead of the two shallow monitoring wells.

**Recent Progress:**

*The Dry Cleaners responded in a letter dated September 22, 2005 that they would choose not to install shallow monitoring wells and proposed waiting six to twelve months before assessing the need for additional deep-zone monitoring wells due to budget concerns and recent declining concentrations in MW-13B. Water Board Staff responded in a letter dated October 19, 2005 requiring deep-zone well installation unless the responsible parties can demonstrate that they are financially unable to do so. A work plan to install at least two deep-zone wells is due on November 30, 2005. In order to evaluate the extent of groundwater contamination and groundwater gradient in the deep-zone, Water Board staff believe it is important to install these wells at this time. It is unclear whether the recent PCE concentration decrease in MW-13B is due to Municipal Well No. 10 pumping or on-site pump-and-treat system operations.*

*In September 2005, MW-9 (see Attachment 1) contained tetrachloroethene (PCE) at 520 parts per billion (ppb), which is the lowest concentration detected since April 2003. Five out of the six wells sampled in September 2005 exhibited a decrease in PCE concentration. The on-site pump and treat system may be causing the recent declining trend in these shallow-zone monitoring wells.*

*In September 2005, MW-13B contained PCE at 2.6 ppb. The Dry Cleaners did not sample MW-13A because a car was parked over the well.*

*The Scotts Valley Water District continues to sample its Municipal Well No. 10 on a weekly basis; no contaminants have been detected above the reporting limit.*

**Cleanup, Looking Forward:**

*The Water Board will be requiring the Dry Cleaners to sample the Valley Gardens Golf Course Well when they sample the required deep-zone monitoring wells. After plume containment is demonstrated, the Dry Cleaners are required to revise their corrective action plan to clean up source area contamination. Water Board staff will continue to coordinate meetings with stakeholders to increase communication and coordinate cleanup efforts.*

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. September 2005 PCE Concentration Site Map