

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2007
Prepared on December 22, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: 9

SUBJECT: Status Report, Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners, 272-A Mount Herman Road, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County

KEY INFORMATION

Type of Discharge: Unauthorized Release of Tetrachloroethene (PCE)
Existing Orders: Cleanup or Abatement Order (CAO) No. R3-2005-0081
Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2005-0082
Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2006-0067 National
Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No.
CAG993002 General Permit for Discharges of Highly Treated
Groundwater to Surface Waters
MRP No. R3-2006-0067

This Action: Status Report Only

DISCUSSION

New information is shown in italics.
For additional background information, please refer to the Water Board's May 13, 2005; September 9, 2005; and May 12, 2006 staff reports.

Water Board staff provides regulatory oversight of the Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners site in Santa Cruz County. The dry cleaner building is located on a property with other commercial buildings and a parking lot in Scotts Valley. The Scotts Valley Water District's Well No. 10 is located approximately 450 feet south of the dry cleaner building.

Background

The Dischargers started site remediation of tetrachloroethene (PCE) in 1996. The Dischargers initially performed excavation (trenching) and vapor extraction in the source area. In March 1998, Water Board staff required the Dischargers to submit a corrective action plan. Since 1998, the Dischargers conducted several

remediation pilot tests/interim remedial actions, including air sparging, aquifer pump testing, and injection of hydrogen releasing compounds and cheese whey. The Dischargers revised the corrective action plan several times based on pilot test results.

The Dischargers implemented high vacuum, dual-phase extraction in March 2004 for PCE plume containment. In July 2004, the Dischargers submitted a revised Interim Remedial Action Plan proposing installation of additional groundwater monitoring and extraction wells, 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 the responsible parties.

As part of CAO No. R3-2005-0081, the Dischargers were required to submit a work plan to install wells to further investigate the contamination off-site. Since July 2005, we have been coordinating with all stakeholders (Dischargers and its' consultants, Scotts Valley Water District and its' consultants, and Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Agency) to determine the appropriate scope of deep-zone, off-site characterization work.

Our July 19, 2006 letter requires implementation of both proposed off-site and on-site investigative work, submittal of an updated site conceptual model, and repair or destruction and replacement of the missing/damaged monitoring wells. Our July 19, 2006 letter required the results of the investigative work by October 30, 2006, a more detailed pilot study work plan by August 21, 2006, and the Corrective Action Plan by December 15, 2006. Dischargers' consultant, Secor, sent an email on August 7, 2006, requesting a two to three month extension on submission of a more detailed pilot study work plan.

Recent Progress

Our August 22, 2006 letter extended the submittal date for the chemical oxidation pilot test work plan to October 30, 2006 in order to allow adequate time for Secor to obtain site-specific data to prepare a quality work plan. In addition, Water Board staff extended the Corrective Action Plan submittal date to January 30, 2007.

By October 31, 2006, Secor submitted a cluster well installation report, third quarter

2006 monitoring report, and bench test results with a pilot test work plan.

Secor installed a cluster well (MW-22 A, B, and C) near the source area on September 12, 2006. The deeper-zoned well (MW-22A), screened from 82 to 87 feet below ground surface, contained PCE at 140 parts per billion (ppb) in a groundwater sample taken on October 10, 2006. Continued monitoring of this well will determine whether the PCE persists at the deeper depth or if it was dragged down during the drilling process.

The groundwater monitoring report indicates that the deep-zone sentry well (MW-13B) continues to not contain PCE and the pump and treat system seems to be containing the plume. The most recent (September 2006) concentrations of PCE in groundwater ranged from less than 0.5 ppb (non-detect) to 780 ppb.

The chemical oxidation pilot test work plan proposes injecting about 2,000 gallons of 4.5% potassium permanganate solution into MW-14 and monitoring nearby monitoring wells to evaluate effectiveness. We plan to approve the pilot test work plan with minor revisions in January 2007.

Secor experienced several deep sentry well drilling delays that were primarily outside of the Discharger's control and thus could not meet the deadline for submittal of a deep well installation report by October 30, 2006. Water Board staff responded to an extension request via email on October 27, 2006 indicating we would not pursue enforcement action if the Discharger submitted the deep well installation report within 60 days after installation.

In October 2006, the Scotts Valley Water District's Well No. 10 failed. The Water District believes the well casing may have corroded causing the filter pack to enter the well. The Water District plans to either repair or replace Well 10 by March 31, 2007. If the Water District decides to replace Well 10, the replacement well

would be located in a similar location and potentially be screened at deeper depths in the Lompico sandstone aquifer. As per discussions with the Scotts Valley Water District, the district is limited to the same location for a replacement well.

After Well 10 failed, Water Board staff set up a teleconference meeting with the Water District and Secor to discuss if well failure would affect the planned work. The stakeholders discussed various alternatives to the proposed investigation to monitor the deep water-bearing zone. However, after the teleconference, Secor informed us that it would rather continue with the previously planned work to install one deep sentry well near Well 10. Thus on December 1, 2006, Water Board staff sent a letter requiring submittal of a sentry well installation report by March 1, 2007 (See Attachment 1). A site conceptual model report (originally due October 30, 2006) is also due by March 1, 2007.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Central Coast Water Board's December 1, 2006 letter

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