

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 4-5, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 6

SUBJECT: Recommended Case Closure

DISCUSSION

Former Chevron Service Station, 5980 Traffic Way (Formerly 5975 El Camino Real, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County [Corey Walsh (805) 542-4781]

Central Coast Water Board staff recommends closure of this underground storage tank (UST) case where groundwater sample results indicate methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) remains at concentrations slightly greater than Central Coast Water Board (Water Board) cleanup goal. Groundwater samples collected from two of seven offsite monitoring wells continue to exceed the cleanup goal of 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) for MTBE. During the most recent quarterly sampling event MTBE was detected in RW-5 and MW-6 at 7 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 12 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively. Other common contaminants associated with gasoline, diesel, and fuel oxygenates have been analyzed and are below cleanup goals, or are below laboratory detection limits in groundwater. Attachment 1, *Groundwater Hydrocarbon Concentration Map*, presents concentrations for samples collected on September 4, 2008.

The site is no longer an active retail gasoline service station, but is used as a parking lot, and is located at the northern corner of El Camino Real and Traffic Way in Atascadero. The current investigation began in July 1989 with the discovery of free product during a routine inspection of the facility. The responsible party (Chevron Environmental Management Company) commissioned several phases of soil and groundwater investigations and evaluated or tested cleanup options, including groundwater, and soil vapor extraction and treatment. Free product was removed from monitoring/recovery wells between August 1989 and November 1994. In August 1994, the landowner demolished the service station, and removed the UST system and 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

Water Board staff notified the site property owner (MDC Properties, LLC), neighboring property owners, and other interested parties that the UST case was being considered for closure. We have not received any comments to date. The San Luis Obispo County Division of Environmental Health Services agrees with the proposed case closure.

Groundwater currently ranges in depth from approximately 4 to 9 feet below ground surface and generally flows to the east-southeast at average gradient of 0.06 feet per foot. Two City of Atascadero water supply wells are located approximately 1.25 miles north and three miles southeast of the site. In addition, Atascadero Unified School District operates an irrigation well located approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the site. The residual petroleum hydrocarbons are unlikely to affect these wells or groundwater beneficial uses considering the groundwater flow direction, well distance, well construction, and low remaining contaminant concentrations.

The extent of the groundwater plume has been adequately characterized and is contracting or declining in size and concentration. Historical monitoring data indicate the petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations are expected to continue to decrease with time.

Our recommendation for closure is based on the following:

- (1) Remaining groundwater pollution above cleanup goals is limited in extent and decreasing in concentration,
- (2) Remaining hydrocarbon constituents are unlikely to reach surface waters or drinking water supply wells, and
- (3) Closure is consistent with Section III.G. of State Water Board Resolution No. 92-49, allowing the consideration of cost effective abatement measures for a site where attainment of reasonable objectives less stringent than background water quality does not unreasonably affect present or anticipated beneficial uses of groundwater, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed by the Basin Plan.

Unless the Water Board objects and pending destruction of monitoring wells, the Executive Officer will issue a case closure letter pursuant to California Underground Storage Tank Regulations.

Attachments

1. Groundwater Hydrocarbon Concentration Map