
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Aerojet Rocketdyne Superfund Site Update July 2024

Central Valley Water Board staff has prepared this memorandum to provide an update on investigation and remediation activities at the Aerojet Rocketdyne Superfund Site in Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County (Site). Interested parties may obtain additional information by:

- Reviewing case files available on the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker online database (Global ID #SL185992958);
- Contacting Central Valley Water Board project manager Geoff Rader at 916-464-4707 or via email at geoff.rader@waterboards.ca.gov; or
- Attending bi-monthly Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings. Individuals interested in attending CAG meetings should contact Geoff Rader for meeting information.

To manage overall Site investigation and cleanup, the Site has been organized into nine operable units (OUs) based on geographic area and specific releases/problems or cleanup actions. The schedule for submittal of OU-specific milestone documents is presented in Table 5-1 of the 13 December 2023 *Program Plan Modification Report (PPMR) – 2023 Update* (2023 PPMR Update), which is available on GeoTracker. Below is an update on OU-specific activities and site-wide initiatives for June 2024:

1. **OU-3 – Western Groundwater.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) signed the *Record of Decision for the Western Groundwater Operable Unit OU-3* (OU-3 ROD) in July 2001. The remedy selected in the OU-3 ROD is “Alternative 4C: New off-property extraction wells with optimal well placement and with GET E/F extraction wells only”. Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc. (Aerojet) currently operates approximately 30 extraction wells near the western Site property boundary (i.e., the Inner Barrier) and 14 extraction wells west of the Site (i.e., the Outer Barrier) to contain the contaminant plumes and expedite groundwater cleanup. Extracted groundwater is treated at five groundwater extraction and treatment systems (GET EF, GET J, GET HA, GET K, and GET LB) and discharged to surface water. As part of the remedy, Aerojet also monitors groundwater conditions, evaluates plume containment and risk to water supply wells, and implements institutional controls to identify new supply wells in the area and restrict exposure to impacted groundwater. Since June 2023, Aerojet installed one new monitoring well cluster (30715-17) to replace a well cluster that was destroyed to accommodate the Rio Del Oro development. Currently, Aerojet does not plan to install any new OU-3 monitoring wells over the next 12 months.

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2. **OU-5 – Perimeter Groundwater.** USEPA signed the *Interim Record of Decision for Groundwater and Final Record of Decision for Soil for the Perimeter Groundwater Operable Unit OU-5* (OU-5 ROD) in February 2011. The remedy selected in the OU-5 ROD is “Groundwater Containment with Mass Removal, Soil Cleanup to Unrestricted Use, and SVE at contaminated soil areas 32D, 34D, 35D and 38D”. Aerojet currently operates approximately 63 extraction wells in OU-5. Extracted groundwater is treated at four groundwater extraction and treatment systems (GET AB, GET EF, ARGET, and Sailor Bar Park). Similar to OU-3, Aerojet also monitors OU-5 groundwater conditions, evaluates plume containment and risk to supply wells, and implements institutional controls to identify any new supply wells and restrict exposure to impacted groundwater. Aerojet has not installed any new OU-5 monitoring wells since June 2023. Over the next 12 months, Aerojet plans to install two monitoring wells in Zone 2 to address data gaps, and one monitoring well in Zone 4 as part of an assessment into the source of perchlorate detected in surface water at Alder Creek. Aerojet is preparing to install a new extraction well in Zone 3 to contain the perchlorate and trichloroethene (TCE) plumes in hydrostratigraphic Layer D. Aerojet is also working with California State Parks and the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water to provide treatment for the Prairie City State Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA) water supply well. In the meantime, Aerojet continues to provide bottled water for SVRA events, and notification signs are maintained on SVRA faucets.

Aerojet has completed all of the OU-5 ROD-required soil excavation remedies. Additionally, Aerojet completed the soil vapor extraction (SVE) portion of the OU-5 remedy in 2021 with the completion of the 49000 Area SVE remedy. Construction of up to five warehouse buildings is ongoing at the 49000 Area in accordance with the restrictions in the 2021 land use covenants, with lead oversight provided by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Aerojet continues to work with the regulatory agencies to prepare and execute the required covenants and restrictions for the other OU-5 soil areas.

3. **OU-6 – Boundary.** USEPA signed the *Record of Decision for the Boundary Operable Unit OU-6* (OU-6 ROD) in August 2015. The remedy selected in the OU-6 ROD consists of institutional controls, engineering controls, and source removal/reduction (excavation and SVE). In December 2023, Aerojet submitted the *Revised Boundary Operable Unit Pre-Design Investigation Summary Report* documenting the results of pre-remedy design investigations to refine the extents of planned OU-6 remedial areas. Since June 2023, Aerojet completed an SVE pilot test at the Chemical Plant 2 area and commenced SVE pilot testing at Administration Area East.
4. **OU-7 – Island.** Aerojet has completed a Draft Final Remedial Investigation and Draft Risk Assessment for OU-7. Completion of the Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will follow the schedule presented in Table 5-1 of the 2023 PPMR Update. In accordance with this schedule, in June 2024,

Aerojet submitted a draft Sampling and Analysis Plan Addendum proposing additional sample collection to support completion of the Final OU-7 Remedial Investigation report.

5. **OU-10 – Area 40.** To accommodate the City of Folsom’s timeline for developing this area, in 2018, the regulatory agencies agreed to separate this area out of OU-7, identify the area as a new OU (OU-10), and transfer lead oversight authority for remedy selection and implementation from the USEPA to the DTSC. The 27 August 2018 *Final Remedial Action Plan Area 40, OU-10* (OU-10 RAP) selected a remedy consisting of, among other things:

- Installation of a permeable reactive barrier to treat contaminated groundwater (completed September through November 2020);
- Multiple excavations to remove contaminated soil (completed September 2019 through July 2020); and
- Continued operation of GET AB, which is located downgradient of OU-10 (ongoing).

In March 2023, Aerojet also conducted contingent in-situ chemical reduction injections to expedite groundwater cleanup, consistent with the OU-10 RAP. In 2024, Aerojet submitted remedial action completion reports documenting remedial construction activities for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the OU-10 remedy. Aerojet continues to monitor groundwater, soil vapor, and ambient air conditions at OU-10 to evaluate remedy effectiveness and progress towards cleanup goals. Aerojet is also working with the regulatory agencies to prepare and execute the required covenants and restrictions for OU-10.

6. **Site-Wide Vapor Intrusion Assessment.** Aerojet initiated the Site-wide vapor intrusion investigation program in 2016. In 2017/2018, Aerojet relocated its manufacturing operations outside of California, resulting in the closure of most buildings at the Site. Aerojet continues to conduct indoor air sampling at occupied buildings on a quarterly to triennial frequency. In addition to indoor air testing, Aerojet conducts routine HVAC system inspections, monitors existing mitigation measures, and tracks changes in building occupancy that might affect the indoor air testing schedule.

Note: OU-4 – Area 41 Soil and Groundwater, OU-8 – Eastern, and OU-9 – Central are in the early phases of planning/investigation because, in the early 2000’s, Aerojet and the regulatory agencies agreed that these OUs were lower priority than the OUs discussed above. Investigation activities at OU-4, OU-8, and OU-9 will follow the schedule presented in Table 5-1 of the 2023 PPMR Update.