



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

December 2015

**Environmental Investigations at
1705 Contra Costa Boulevard
Pleasant Hill, California**

Overview

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is circulating this Notice to inform the community and other interested parties about the ongoing and future environmental investigations at 1705 Contra Costa Boulevard in Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County, California. Figure 1 shows the location of the Site. This Notice discusses an opportunity for the public to review and/or comment on a draft Tentative Order prepared for the Site.

The Site is located within a commercial area of Pleasant Hill, and is a rectangular-shaped commercial parcel improved with a gasoline service station. Current improvements include a small mini-mart, three fuel underground storage tanks (USTs), four dispenser islands, underground product piping, and a car wash. From the early 1950s to the present-day, an automobile fueling station has operated at the Site.

Site Background and History

From the mid-1950s to 1986, a dry cleaner operated within the southern portion of the Site. Standard Oil operated at the Site from 1950 until its acquisition by Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron) in 1977. An automotive maintenance and repair facility operated on the Site from 1972 to 1987, and wastes generated from these activities were stored in a steel waste oil UST. The waste oil UST was removed in 1986. In late 1987, before an extensive renovation of the property, the automotive repair structure and dry cleaner building were removed. The current site configuration has remained unchanged for the past 28 years. In March 2003, Chevron sold the property to MB Enterprises, Inc. (MBE). MBE is the current owner.

Perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) are synthetic chemicals mostly used for dry cleaning clothes and for cleaning and degreasing metal parts. They belong to a special class of toxic solvents known as chlorinated volatile organic compounds or CVOCs. PCE and TCE are liquids with high volatility. Based on chemical density characteristics, when discharged to the environment PCE and TCE may migrate through soil and dissolve into groundwater. PCE and TCE typically degrade in the environment to form toxic by-products, such as cis-1,2-dichloroethylene and vinyl chloride. Past operators of the dry cleaner discharged PCE at the Site, and PCE and TCE were also discharged within and around the former service station building and the former waste oil UST.

Investigations

Since the mid-1980s, several investigations have been conducted by Chevron to evaluate CVOC contamination beneath the Site and surrounding area. CVOCs have been detected in soil, soil vapor and groundwater at concentrations well above regulatory and health-based standards, including the Regional Water Board's Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs)¹. On November 12, 2014, the Regional Water Board adopted the Site Cleanup Requirements (Order) that names Chevron and MBE as dischargers. The Order requires investigations to fully define the nature and extent of CVOCs in soil, soil vapor and groundwater, and also a remedial action plan to clean up the CVOCs. A remedial investigation during the summer of 2015 for the Order confirmed the extent of CVOCs in groundwater and soil vapor remains undefined to applicable drinking water standards and relevant human health screening levels. Since CVOC vapors can migrate into buildings, they pose a potential vapor intrusion threat to onsite and offsite building occupants. The significance of this threat will not be understood until a vapor intrusion study is completed.

¹ See Regional Water Board webpage: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/esl.shtml

Next Steps

Based on the potential threat to public health and the environment, the Regional Water Board plans to amend the original Order. The Tentative Order requires the dischargers to submit work plans to define the extent of pollution in groundwater and soil vapor, including onsite and offsite vapor intrusion studies, and to conduct interim remedial actions, as necessary. New groundwater monitoring wells and soil vapor probes will likely be installed and sampled in the future, and indoor air sampling may be necessary. The Tentative Order also adds a Self-Monitoring Program for both existing and future wells and vapor probes.

Public Outreach

The Regional Water Board is committed to providing the public with timely and accurate information and updates and addressing any comments received. The Tentative Order is available for a 30-day public comment period running from December 18, 2015, through January 17, 2016. At the end of the public comment period, the Regional Water Board will compile all comments received and revise the Tentative Order, if necessary, prior to its issuance. Please provide any comments via email or in writing to:

Kevin D. Brown, PG, CEG
 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
 Oakland, California 94612
 Email: Kevin.Brown@waterboards.ca.gov
 Phone: (510) 622-2358

The Tentative Order is available online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/#sitecleanup

Additional case information is accessible at:

http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T10000003609

You can also visit the Pleasant Hill Library Reference Desk, 1750 Oak Park Boulevard in Pleasant Hill, to review a hard copy of the Tentative Order.



Figure 1. Site Location Map