SFUND RECORDS CTR

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 1, 2007

Seymour Moslin
[redacted]

RE: General Notice Letter
Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Moslin:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of your potential liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, at the Omega Chemical Corporation Superfund Site (the "Site"), in Whittier, California. The Site includes the location of a former refrigerant/solvent recycling operation ("Omega Chemical") in Whittier, California, but the term "Site" (as used here) refers to both the former Omega Chemical property and the areal extent (i.e., plume) of contaminated groundwater emanating from the Omega Chemical property.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is spending public funds to investigate and control releases or potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at the Site. Under Sections 106(a) and 107(a) of CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, Potentially Responsible Parties ("PRPs") may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for all costs incurred by EPA in responding to any release or threatened release at the Site. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of facilities at which hazardous substances were disposed of, persons who arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at a facility ("generators"), and persons who accepted hazardous substances for transport to a facility ("transporters").

EPA has evaluated information obtained through its investigation of the Site, and has determined that you are a PRP as a former owner of the property located at 9005 Sorensen Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California, an address located within the Site.

During a Site Assessment in 1995, EPA observed in excess of 3,000 drums at the Site in various stages of deterioration. Data gathered in 1988 and 1995 also indicated the presence of hazardous substances including but not limited to methylene chloride, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and Freon 11 and 113, in the subsurface soils and groundwater at the Site. On May 3, 1995, EPA issued an Action Memorandum authorizing actions necessary to abate imminent and substantial endangerment at the Site, including securing the Omega Chemical property, conducting sampling, removing grossly contaminated equipment, structures, and

debris, removing containerized wastes and disposing, stabilizing or treating grossly contaminated soils.

On May 9, 1995 and August 31, 1995, EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Orders ("UAOs") to approximately 170 major generator PRPs, all of whom sent greater than 10 tons of hazardous materials to the Site, to perform removal activities at the Site. These major contributing parties thereafter formed a workgroup called the Omega Chemical Site PRP Organized Group, or "OPOG", and completed removal activities as required. In September 1998, EPA proposed the Site for listing on the National Priorities List ("NPL"). The Site was placed on the NPL on January 19, 1999.

Currently, the 109 members of OPOG (the "Settling Defendants") are performing work under a Partial Consent Decree which was entered by the District Court on February 28, 2001. Under this agreement, the Settling Defendants agreed to pay a portion of past costs and perform the following work at the Site:

1) implementation of a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study ("RI/FS") for contamination in the vadose zone within the "Phase 1A area" (as described in the Partial Consent Decree) of the Site;

2) performance of an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis ("EE/CA") addressing groundwater contamination in the Phase 1A area;

3) implementation of the response action selected in EPA's Action Memorandum at the conclusion of the EE/CA;

4) performance of a risk assessment addressing contamination within the Phase 1A area; and

5) installation of up to three groundwater monitoring wells at locations downgradient of the Phase 1A area and upgradient of the City of Santa Fe Springs water supply well 30R3.

In addition, EPA has been conducting a Fund-lead groundwater RI downgradient of the Phase 1A area. A Fund-lead FS for a Site-wide groundwater remedy will follow the Fund-lead groundwater RI, and it will take into account the PRP-lead groundwater response action in the Phase 1A area. At the conclusion of the FS, a Site-wide groundwater remedy will be proposed and, after public comment, selected by EPA.

In August 2002, EPA issued General Notice Letters to approximately 100 additional major generator PRPs, all of whom sent 10 tons or greater of hazardous materials to the Site. EPA has encouraged these PRPs to initiate dialogue with OPOG concerning joining the established workgroup. EPA will amend the existing Partial Consent Decree to include any parties which join the established group.

Prior to signing the Partial Consent Decree, several OPOG members withdrew from the group and elected not to sign the settlement. They formed a new group that later became known as the Omega Small Volume Organized Group or "OSVOG." On January 5, 2004, EPA issued a UAO to fifteen OSVOG members and three other recalcitrant parties. An Amended UAO was issued on July 2, 2004. The work required under the Amended UAO included the installation of groundwater wells and sampling downgradient from the former Omega Chemical property.

On October 28, 2003, EPA noticed approximately 300 *de minimis* parties at the Omega Site, each of which contributed 3 to 9.9 tons of hazardous materials to the Site. Approximately 170 *de minimis* parties accepted EPA's settlement offer. The Administrative Order on Consent to resolve these parties' potential liability at the Site was finalized on December 12, 2005.

Your facility is located above the contaminated groundwater plume that originates at and which extends three miles downgradient of the Omega Chemical property. The Agency believes that your facility is a source of hazardous substances which have come to be located in this plume. As such, you are a PRP at the Site. EPA is not extending a settlement offer or issuing an order for the performance of work to you at this time. The Agency anticipates issuing a Record of Decision to select a groundwater cleanup remedy within the next two to three years. At that point, EPA will initiate settlement discussions with you and all other PRPs at the Site for the performance of the Remedial Design/Remedial Action ("RD/RA") for the groundwater remedy.

EPA encourages good faith negotiations between the PRPs and EPA, as well as among the PRPs. You may contact EPA to obtain the most current list of PRPs that have previously been sent General Notice letters for this Site. In addition, OPOG's contact names and numbers are:

Keith F. Millhouse, Esq.
(805) 230-2280

Larry G. Gutteridge, Esq.
(213) 628-7131

Enclosed are three Fact Sheets about the Site. In addition, copies of site-related documents are located at EPA's Regional Office in San Francisco and at the information repository listed below:

Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street (4th Floor)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Ph: (415) 536-2000

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
Ph: (562) 464-3450

Further information about the Site may be located on the following EPA web page by going to "Site Overviews", then selecting "Site Overviews by Site Name" and scrolling down to "Omega Chemical Corporation":

http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/superfundsites.html

Also enclosed is an information sheet intended to inform small businesses of their rights under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) to comment to an Ombudsman about EPA enforcement activity. This information sheet also provides information on compliance assistance available to small businesses. We have included this information sheet without making a determination as to whether your business is a small business as defined by Section 222 of SBREFA or related provisions.

Please use the enclosed Primary Contact Designation Form to designate the most appropriate individual to receive all further correspondence on this matter on your behalf. We request that you mail us the completed form within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this letter. We will continue to send future correspondence to you until we receive this form. The completed Primary Contact Designation Form should be mailed to:

Linda Ketellapper, SFD-7-5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

This notice letter does not affect or nullify any other legal obligations you may have regarding your facility. EPA understands that McKesson is subject to a consent order with the Department of Toxic Substances Control and that McKesson is conducting remedial activities under that order. If you are engaged in clean-up or other activities under the direction of federal, state or local authorities, you should continue such activities as appropriate. Likewise, this notice letter has no effect on any obligations which you may have in a court of law.

Although this letter does not affect these other obligations, EPA hereby requests, by its authority under CERCLA Section 104(e), that you provide a written response reporting the status of all of those activities and obligations. The response should include a copy of all agreements and/or orders between you and other parties related to your facility and on-going activities and obligations. Your response should be made in writing and submitted to EPA within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. It should be directed to Linda Ketellapper, the EPA Case Developer, at the address provided above.

If you have general questions regarding the Site, please contact Linda Ketellapper at (415) 972-3104. If you have any technical questions regarding the Site, please contact Chris Lichens, the Remedial Project Manager, at (415) 972-3149. If you have any legal questions, you may contact Steve Berninger, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (415) 972-3909.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams
Chief, Site Cleanup Branch

cc: Karl Fingerhood, DOJ EES
Steve Berninger, EPA ORC
Linda Ketellapper, EPA
Christopher Lichens, EPA
Fred Schauffler, EPA
Sara Amir, DTSC
Larry Gutteridge, OPOG
Keith Millhouse, OPOG

Enclosures:

- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet: "Omega Chemical Superfund Site Update", September 2003
- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet: "Proposed Plan for Interim Groundwater Action", August 2005
- U.S. EPA Fact Sheet: "EPA Evaluates Indoor Air at Omega Chemical Site", November 2004
- Information Sheet, U.S. EPA Small Business Resources
- Primary Contact Designation Form. Please complete and return this form **within 30 days** of your receipt of this letter.

PRIMARY CONTACT DESIGNATION FORM

Seymour Moslin

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITHIN THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS OF RECEIPT

Please complete this form by printing or typing the requested information. If any of the information provided on this form changes after submission of the form including, but not limited to, changes in corporate relationships, please notify EPA at the address listed below as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Please provide the following information for the single person who will be the above-named company's or individual's contact for all future communications (including correspondence, informational mailings, etc.) from EPA regarding Omega. You may designate a legal or other representative as the single primary contact. Please enter "N/A" if the requested information is not applicable to you.

Company/Organization/Individual Name: (only if different from above):	
Name of Designated Contact :	Contact's Title:
Contact's Firm Name:	
Street Address (no P.O. Box):	
City, State & Zip:	
Telephone Number:	Fax Number:
E-mail Address:	
Web-site Address:	
2. Other information: Law/Consulting Firm Name (if applicable):	

3. Printed Name and Signature of Person Completing This Form

Printed Name | Title | Company/Organization

Signature | Date

4. Please return this form to:

Linda Ketellapper, Case Developer
Mail Code SFD-7-5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

EPA Omega Chemical Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SEPTEMBER 2003

OMEGA CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) have been conducting an investigation of the groundwater and soil contamination at the Omega Chemical Superfund site in Whittier, CA (see Figure 1, page 2). This fact sheet discusses what has been completed to date on the site investigation.

EPA is studying the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination near the site. EPA is also overseeing the PRPs as they investigate the extent and nature of soil and groundwater contamination on the Omega property. As a result of past activities at the site, soil and groundwater are contaminated with various volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are organic compounds that easily evaporate at room temperature. The most prevalent VOCs at the Omega site are perchloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), Freon 11 and Freon 113. These solvents were previously used as degreasers, dry-cleaning chemicals and refrigerant agents. The nearest drinking water well to the site is approximately 1.3. miles downgradient from the site (Figure 1) in Santa Fe Springs, CA. All drinking water served by the City of Santa Fe Springs and the City of Whittier, including water from this well, meets State and Federal drinking water standards. The maximum contamination level (MCL) allowed in drinking water for PCE and TCE is five parts per billion (ppb), for Freon 11 its 150 ppb and Freon 113 its 1200 ppb. A MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water delivered to a public drinking system.

As part of the site investigation, EPA is developing a monitoring program to track the movement of contaminated groundwater from the site. The program will help EPA monitor the flow of the contamination under ground so it does not threaten drinking water sources, and will determine if other sources are contributing to the contamination. Information from the monitoring program is used to determine what type of groundwater cleanup system will be needed.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED, SO FAR?

Site History

The Omega Chemical Superfund site is located at 12504 and 12512 East Whittier Blvd., in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. The site is approximately 40,000 square feet in area. There are two buildings, a warehouse and an office building. The rest of the site is a paved service yard. From 1976 to 1991, the Omega Chemical Corporation and Refrigerant Reclamation Company operated a used solvent and refrigerant recycling and reformulation treatment facility. The facility primarily handled chemicals used in refrigerator and freezer coils and chlorinated solvents that included degreasing chemicals and dry-cleaning chemicals.

In the late 1980s, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Public Works Department and the Fire Department investigated the Omega facility. Contamination was found in shallow soil at depths less than 3.5 feet below ground surface and at concentrations up to 1,000 ppm. This site was referred to the EPA's Emergency Response Section in 1995. Also in 1995, the EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to over 170 PRPs to remove contaminants that posed an immediate or substantial threat to public health and environment. This included the removal of more than 2,700 drums from the site. In 2001, a settlement known as a partial Consent Decree was signed with over 100 PRPs to conduct a soil remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Omega property; install three (3) downgradient monitoring wells to be sampled quarterly; and to design and implement a groundwater containment and mass removal system near the Omega facility. A RI/FS allows EPA to study the nature and extent of the contamination at a site, and helps to decide what are the best and most cost effective cleanup methods that can be consider. Work required under this partial Consent Decree is ongoing.

EPA Activities:

From August to November 2001, EPA drilled eighty borings and took a water sample at each location. The data results helped EPA to understand the extent of groundwater contamination better and helped to determine where

Cont'd. on page 2

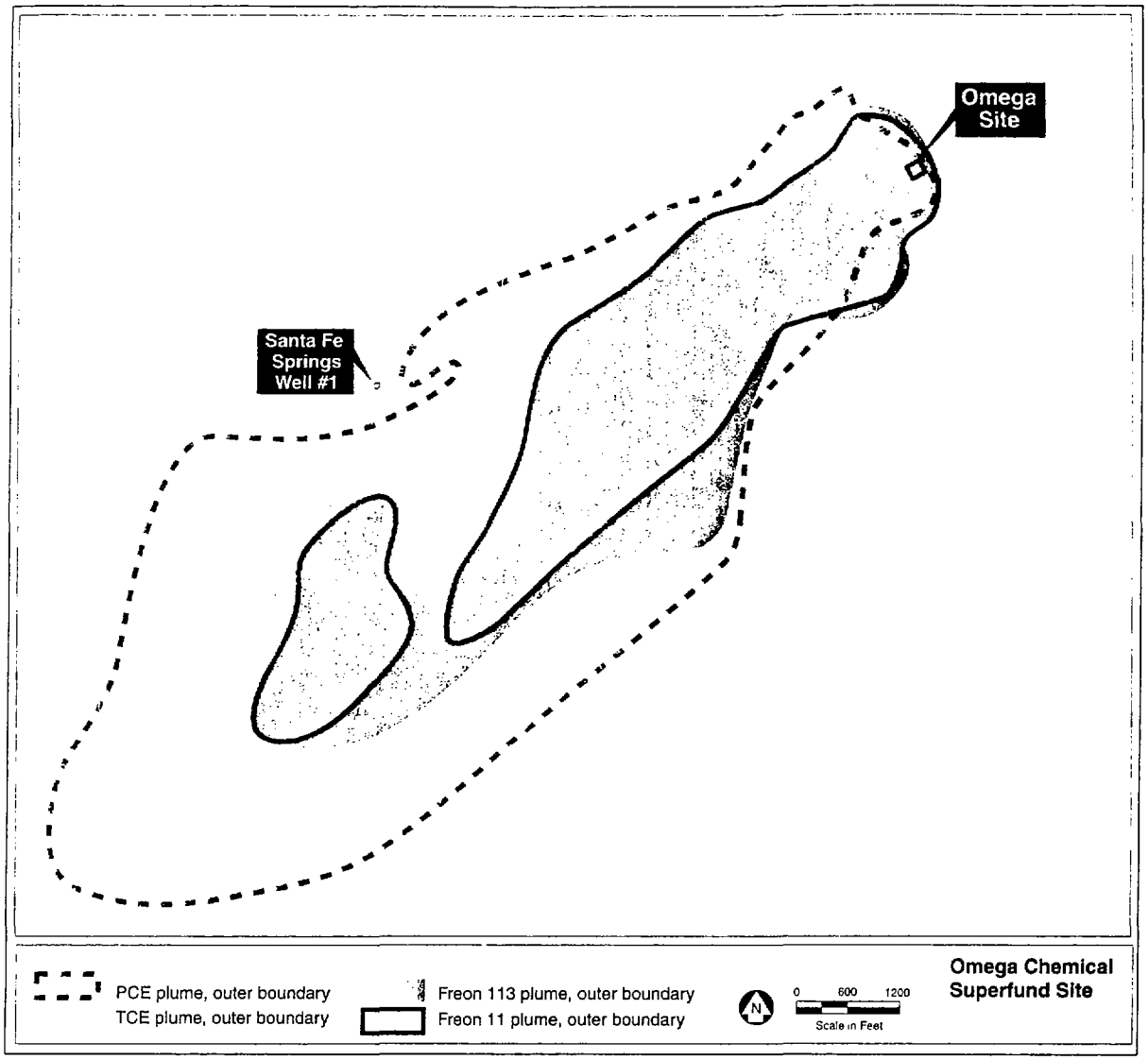

Figure 1: *Omega Chemical Superfund site, showing outer boundaries of contaminants*

additional monitoring wells needed to be placed. A monitoring well is used to collect periodic groundwater samples. The map (above) shows an outline of the site's groundwater contamination area, referred to as a plume. The plume's border shows where we did not detect VOCs above 5ppb. Based on the boring sampling data, EPA installed eighteen groundwater monitoring wells in December 2001. The monitoring wells are currently sampled quarterly and results are typically available within a four-month period. In August 2001, EPA conducted a second phase of exploratory sampling to more fully evaluate the extent of the contaminated groundwater. An additional thirty-five locations were sampled.

PRP Activities:

Four rounds of quarterly sampling have been conducted on the first seven of the ten PRP monitoring wells installed. The two most recently installed wells were sampled for the first time in late March 2002 and are now sampled semi-annually along with other PRP wells. The PRPs conducted pump tests of the four nearest downgradient wells in March 2003. The PRPs have also prepared a draft workplan for Remedial Investigation (RI) of soils on the Omega site. The workplan explains how they will go about conducting the study.

Based on data collected at all of the groundwater wells, EPA has identified the general location of the groundwater contamination downgradient from the Omega Chemical facility. These data will be used in the future for the site-wide remedial investigation and feasibility study in order that the EPA may select a final cleanup remedy (or plan) for the site.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is available for citizens who live near a Superfund site. The grant helps qualified citizen groups affected by a Superfund site to hire an independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related information. An initial grant of up to $50,000 is available. For further information about the grant, please call us and request an application (toll-free 800-231-3075) or get it from the TAG web page: www.epa.gov

SITE INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The EPA maintains site information repositories at the Whittier Public Library and at the EPA Superfund Records Center. These repositories contain project documents, fact sheets, and reference materials. The EPA encourages you to review these documents to gain a complete understanding of the site. The information repository's locations are listed below. EPA also has a site information web page at **http://Yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf**, scroll to the Omega Chemical site.

EPA Superfund Record Center
95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 464-3450

PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA TECNICA

Un Programa de Asistencia Técnica (TAG, por sus siglas en inglés) está disponible para ciudadanos que vivan cerca del Sitio Superfondo. El programa ayuda a grupos de ciudadanos afectados por un Sitio de Superfondo para que contraten los servicios de un consejero tecnico independiente para que les ayude a interpretar y comentar sobre información relacionada con el sitio. Un programa financiero inicial de hasta $50,000 está disponible. Para más información sobre este programa, por favor llamenos y pida una solicitud (numero gratis 800-231-3075) ó la puede obtener del sitio de internet TAG: www.epa.gov.

DEPOSITO DE INFORMACIÓN DEL SITIO

La EPA mantiene depositos de información sobre el sitio en la Biblioteca Pública de Whittier y en el Centro de Registro de Superfondo de la EPA. Estos depósitos contienen documentos sobre el proyecto, boletines, y materiales de referencia. La EPA le aconseja que revise estos documentos para que obtenga un mayor conocimiento del sitio. La EPA también cuenta con una pagina de internet con información del sitio en la siguiente dirección: http://Yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf, desplazarse hacia abajo al Sitio Omega Chemical.

Centro de Registro de la EPA
95 Hawtrhorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Biblioteca Pública Whittier
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 464-3450

EPA El Sitio Superfondo Omega Chemical

La Agencia para la Protección Del Medio Ambiente de Los Estados Unidos • Región 9 • Septiembre de 2003

PROGRESO EN EL SITIO SUPERFONDO OMEGA CHEMICAL

La Agencia De Protección Ambiental De Los Estados Unidos (EPA por sus siglas en inglés) junto con las compañias pontecialmente responsables (PRPs por sus siglas en inglés) han estado conduciendo una investigación sobre la contaminación del agua subterránea y el suelo en el Sitio Superfondo Omega Chemicals en Whittier, CA (vease Figura 1). Este boletín trata de lo que se ha logrado hasta la fecha con respecto a la investigación en el sitio.

La EPA está estudiando la naturaleza y el alcance de contaminación del agua subterránea cerca del sitio. La EPA también está supervisando a las compañias pontecialmente responsables durante la investigación sobre naturaleza y el alcance de contaminación en la propiedad de Omega. Como resultado de actividades llevadas acabo en el pasado dentro del Sitio, el suelo y el agua subterránea están contaminados con varios compuestos organicos volátiles (VOCs, por sus siglas en inglés). Los compuestos organicos volátiles se caracterizan por evaporarse fácilmente en temperaturas normales. Los compuestos orgánicos más comunes en el sitio Omega son percloroeteneo (*percholoroethlylene-PCE*), tricloroeteneo (*trichloroethylene-TCE*), freón (*Freon*) 11, y freón (*Freon*) 113. Estos solventes eran utilizados para disminuir la grasa, como químicos para limpiar en seco y también como agentes refrigerantes. El pozo de agua potable más cercano al lugar está ubicado aproximadamente a 1.3 millas cuesta abajo del sitio (Figura 1) en Santa Fe Springs, CA. El nivel máximo de contaminación (MCL, por sus siglas en inglés) de PCE y TCE permitido en el agua potable es de cinco partes por billón (pbb por sus siglas en inglés), de Freon 11 es de 150 ppb y de Freon 113 es 1200 ppb. Un MCL es el nivel máximo de contaminación permitido en el agua destinada a un sistema público de agua potable. El agua potable para la Ciudad de Santa Fe Springs y la Ciudad de Whittier cumple con las normas estatales y federales con respecto al agua potable.

Como parte de la investigación, la EPA está desarollando un programa de monitoreo para rastrear el movimiento del flujo de agua contaminada del sitio. Este programa ayudará a la EPA a monitorear el flujo de contaminación subterránea para no poner en riesgo las fuentes de agua potable, y asi ayudar a determinar si algunas otras fuentes están contribuyendo a la contaminación. El programa ayuda a determinar que tipo de sistema de limpieza se necesitará para el agua subterránea.

¿QUE HA SUCEDIDO, HASTA AHORA?

Historia del Sitio

El sitio superfondo Omega Chemical está localizado en el 12504 y 12512 East Whittier Blvd., en la Ciudad de Whittier, Condado de Los Angeles, California. La área del sitio es de aproximadamente 40,000 pies cuadrados. Hay dos edificios, una bodega y sus oficinas. El resto del sitio consiste en un patio de servicio pavimentado. De 1976 a 1991, Omega Chemical Corporation y Refrigerant Reclamation Company operaron una instalación de reciclaje, tratamiento y reformulación de solventes usados. La instalación manejaba principalmente químicos usados en las bobinas de los refrigeradores y congeladores, asi como solventes clorinados que incluían químicos para disminuir la grasa al igual que químicos utilizados para la limpieza en seco.

A finales de la década de los 80s, el Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado de Los Angeles, el Departamento de Obras Públicas, y el Departamento de Bomberos investigaron la instalación Omega. Se encontró que a una profundidad menos de 3.5 pies debajo de la superficie, el suelo contenia contaminaciones en concentraciones de hasta 1,000 partes por million (ppm por sus siglas en inglés). En 1995, la EPA emitio una Orden Uniteral Administrativa a mas de 170 compañias potencialmente responsables para que removieran los contaminantes que ponian en riesgo la salud púbica y ambiental. Esto incluyo remover mas de 2,700 barriles del sitio. En el 2001 se firmo un Decreto de Consentimiento con mas de 100 compañias potencialmente responsible para conducir una investigación de remediación y un estudio de viabilidad en la propiedad de Omega; instalar 3 pozos de monitoreo cuesta abajo de los cuales se tomarian muestras trimestralmente; y diseñar e implementar un sistema de contención para el agua subterránea cuesta abajo y un sistema masivo de removimiento que estaría localizado cerca a las instralaciones de Omega.

Actividades de la EPA

De Agosto a Noviembre del 2001, la EPA excavó 80 pozos y tomó muestras de agua de cada locación. Los resultados de la información obtenida ayudaron a la EPA a entender la extención de contaminación del agua subterránea mejor y ayudo a determinar donde serian puestos los pozos de monitoreo. Un pozo de monitoreo es utilizado para recolectar muestras de agua subterránea periodicamente. El mapa (a la derecha) muestra el contorno del flujo de la contaminación en el agua subterránea del sitio (el flujo o plume en inglés se refiere a la forma que toma una substacia al infiltrarse o repartiser en un terreno). El contorno del flujo indica hasta donde no se detectaron compuestos organicos volatíles por arriba de los 5 ppb. Basándose en la información proveniente de las muestras tomadas de los pozos, la EPA instaló 18 pozos de monitoreo en Diciembre del 2001. Actualmente se toman nuestras de los pozos de monitoreo cada cuatro meses, y los resultados están disponibles en un periodo de cuatro meses. En agosoto del 2001 la EPA condujo una segunda fase de muestras de exploración para mejor evaluar el alcance de contaminación en el agua subterránea. Se tomaron muestras de treinta cinco locaciones adicionales.

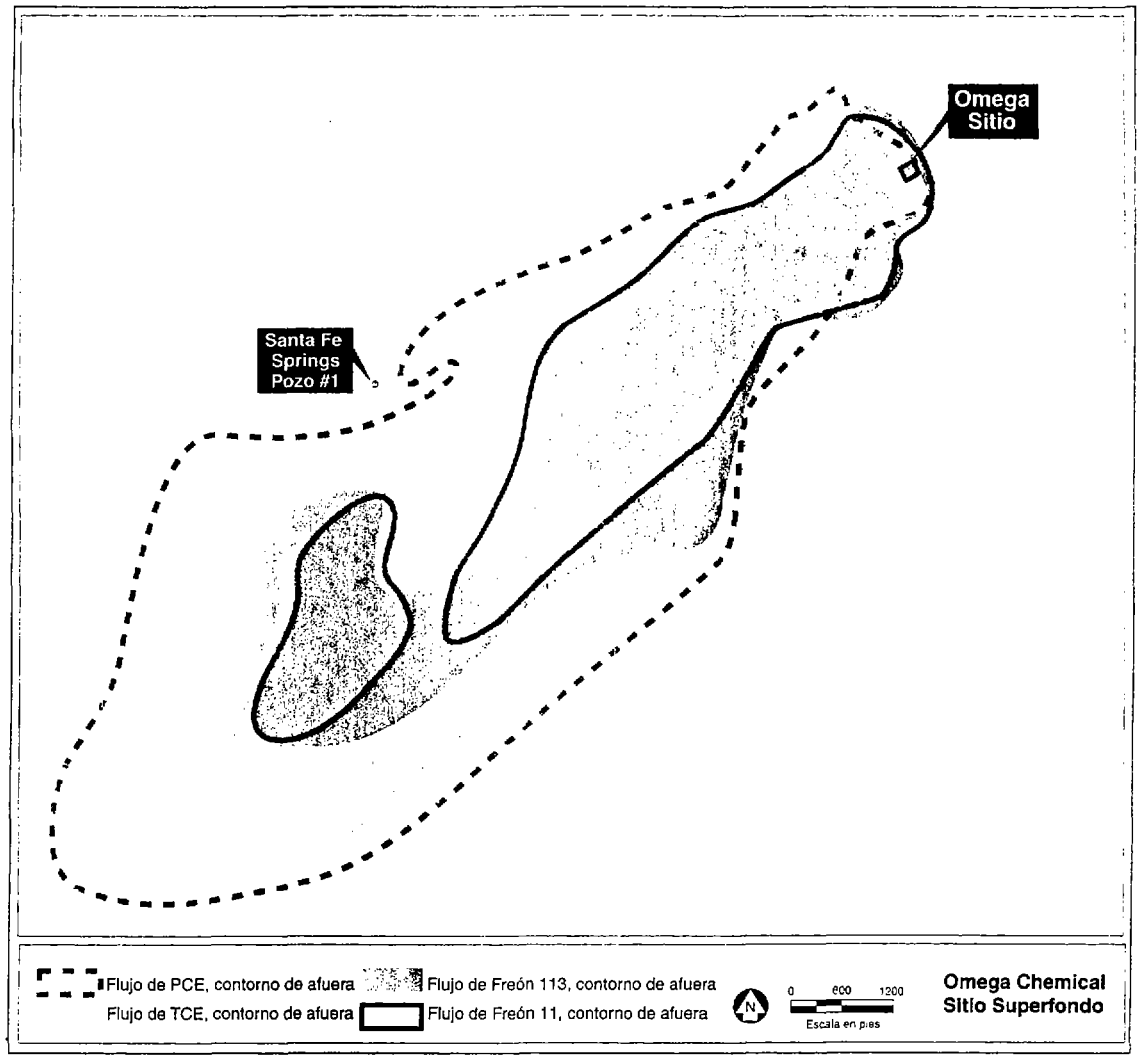

Figura 1: *Sitio Superfondo Omega Chemical, mostando los contornos de alvera de los contaminantes*

Actividades de las compañias potencialmente responsables (PRPs por sus siglas en inglés)

Cuatro rondas de muestras han sido conducidas cada cuatro meses en los primeros siete de los 10 pozos de monitoreo instalados por las compañias potencialmente responsables. Los dos pozos que fueron instalados recientemente, fueron analizados por primera vez a finales de Marzo del 2002. Las compañias potencialmente reponsables condujeron pruebas de bombeo el los cuatro pozos más cercanos cuesta abajo en Marzo del 2003. Las compañias potencialmente reponsables también prepararon un borrador del Plan de Trabajo para la Investigación Remediadora (RI por sus siglas en inglés) del suelo en el Sitio Omega. El plan de Trabajo explica como conduciran el estudio. Basandose en la información colectada en todos los pozos de agua subterránea, la EPA ha indentificado una locación general de agua subterránea contaminada cuesta abajo del las instalaciones de Omega Chemical. Esta información será utilzada en el futuro para la Investigación Remediadora y Estudio de Viabilidad en todo el sitio para que la EPA pueda seleccionar una limpieza final para el sitio.

OMEGA CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

PROGRESO EN EL SITIO SUPERFONDO OMEGA

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jacqueline Lane
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 9, (SFD-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct Line (415) 972-3236 or toll-free 800-231-3075
lane.jacqueline@epa.gov

Christopher Lichens
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region 9, (SFD-7-4)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct Line (415) 972-3149 or toll-free 800-231-3075
lichens.christopher@epa.gov

PARA INFORMACIÓN ADICIONAL, POR FAVOR LLAME A:

Jaqueline Lane
Cordinadora de Participación Communitaria
U.S. EPA Region 9, (SFD-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Linea Directa (415) 472-3236 o gratis al (800) 231-3075
lane.jacqueline@epa.gov

Christopher Lichens
Gerente de Proyecto de Remediación
U.S. EPA Region 9, (SFD-7-4)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Linea Directa (415) 972-3149 o gratis al (800) 231-3075
lichens.christopher@epa.gov

en Español & in English

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Attn: Jackie Lane

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

Address Service Requested

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U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35

EPA Omega Chemical Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • NOVEMBER 2004

EPA Evaluates Indoor Air at Omega Chemical Site

Estimado residente: Si prefiere este folleto en español, por favor llame 1-800-231-3075 y deje su nombre y domicilio. Se lo enviaremos inmediatamente.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) have been conducting an investigation of the groundwater and soil contamination at the Omega Chemical Superfund Site in Whittier, CA (Figure 1). As part of the work, the EPA and PRPs conducted indoor air sampling because volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are present at the Site. Vapor intrusion from VOC-contaminated soil and groundwater into buildings is a growing concern at hazardous waste sites across the country.

This fact sheet discusses the vapor intrusion pathway in more detail and the recent indoor air sampling conducted at the Omega Site. Based on the data EPA has so far, there are no immediate health risks in any of the buildings sampled. The EPA is still evaluating whether the contaminant levels measured in buildings at and near the Omega Site pose a risk over the long term.

What is the Vapor Intrusion Pathway?

VOCs in the soil and/or groundwater emit vapors that can migrate through subsurface soils and enter overlying buildings through cracks in the floors or through piping conduits. Under certain conditions, this contaminated soil vapor can accumulate in buildings to the point where the contaminants may pose a potential health risk to people living in, working in, or otherwise using those buildings.

There are many factors which affect whether such vapors can accumulate at levels of concern inside a building, including: how volatile the chemical is; the nature of the subsurface soil; the chemical concentrations in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater; the depth to groundwater; and the type and construction of the overlying buildings.

Indoor air quality is also affected by many factors other than subsurface vapor intrusion. Some of the most significant impacts to indoor air quality come from the use of consumer products, personal habits, and

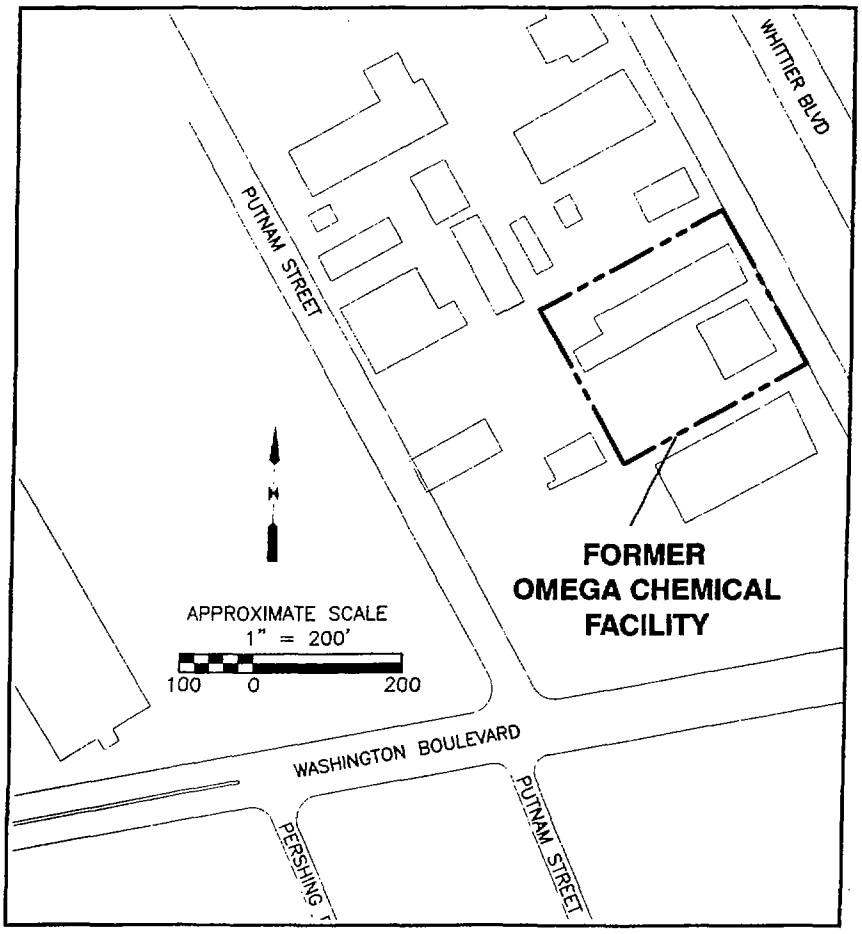

Figure 1: Location of Omega Chemical Superfund Site

outdoor air intrusion. For example, VOCs in cleaning agents, room deodorizers, dry-cleaned clothing, cigarette smoke, vehicle exhaust, and industrial emissions can all affect indoor air quality. Certain adhesives, spot removers, paint removers, scented candles, and automotive cleaning and degreasing products can also be potential sources of chemicals found in indoor air.

What are the Chemicals of Concern at the Omega Site?

The chemicals of concern at the Omega Site are volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The primary chemicals of concern are tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE). PCE and TCE are solvents that have been widely used by industry as cleaning and degreasing agents. 1,1-DCE is not commonly used in commercial products.

Results of animal studies, conducted with amounts much higher than those observed in indoor air at the Omega Site, show that PCE and TCE can damage the liver, kidneys, and nervous system, and cause cancer. Based on the animal studies, PCE and TCE are suspected to cause cancer in people. 1,1-DCE is also considered to be a possible cancer-causing chemical based on limited studies in laboratory animals.

Another group of VOCs, freons, are also contaminants at the Omega Site. They are used as coolants and pressurizers in spray can products. They are less toxic than the other chemicals but at extremely high levels may affect the nervous system.

How was the Indoor Air Study Conducted?

The scope of the initial indoor air study included air sampling within two buildings on the former Omega facility and three others in close proximity. Because of their locations, these buildings were considered the most likely to be impacted by vapor intrusion from the Omega Site. In order to evaluate whether other potential sources were impacting indoor air quality, outdoor air samples were collected and the chemical products used in two of the buildings were inventoried.

Indoor air samples were collected in a phased approach. Based on the results of the intial samples, more focused samples were collected within one building (the Skateland facility located on Whittier Blvd.) to provide more location-specific information in that building. The Skateland results are discussed in more detail below. Follow-up samples will also be collected in other buildings.

Most samples were collected using six-liter stainless steel "Summa" canisters which collect indoor air over an eight-hour period, or in some cases, at a single point in time. The canisters were then sent to a laboratory for analysis. A portable gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) was also used to analyze air samples on one occasion. The portable GC/MS was used to determine VOC levels at a single point in time rather than over an eight-hour period.

What Criteria did the U.S. EPA use to Evaluate Indoor Air Results?

The EPA compared indoor air results to outdoor air results, short-term health-protective screening levels, and long-term health-protective screening levels. Short-term criteria are used to evaluate continuous exposure to chemicals over hours, days, and months. The EPA used Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs) published by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) as the primary short-term criteria for PCE and TCE.

The long-term criteria EPA used are known as Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs). PRGs are general guidelines for evaluating exposures to hazardous air pollutants that occur over many years. In the Superfund program, the EPA generally uses PRGs as a screening tool to determine whether contaminant levels may pose a potential health risk. PRGs incorporate standard EPA exposure assumptions for residential land use that include special consideration of sensitive members of the population, including children.

When indoor air results are higher than the long-term health-based screening levels, further evaluation is warranted to determine if exposures could pose a health concern. When indoor air results are higher than outdoor

air results, it indicates that there is either a source of the chemical inside the building, or that vapors may be seeping into the building as a result of the vapor intrusion pathway.

What did the Indoor Air Results Indicate?

The results of the Omega indoor air sampling showed evidence of vapor intrusion into the former Omega facility and some nearby buildings (see Table 1 for a summary of indoor air results and Figure 2 for sampling areas). In each building, PCE levels were the highest of all chemicals measured. The PCE levels in two buildings were above the U.S. EPA's screening criteria for long-term exposure. In addition, the highest measured concentrations of TCE and 1,1-DCE were above long-term health-protective screening levels. These screening criteria are developed assuming exposure for 24 hours per day, 350 days per year for 30 years.

For contaminants that have short-term screening levels, indoor air concentrations were below those levels in all buildings sampled, which means that there is not an immediate health risk.

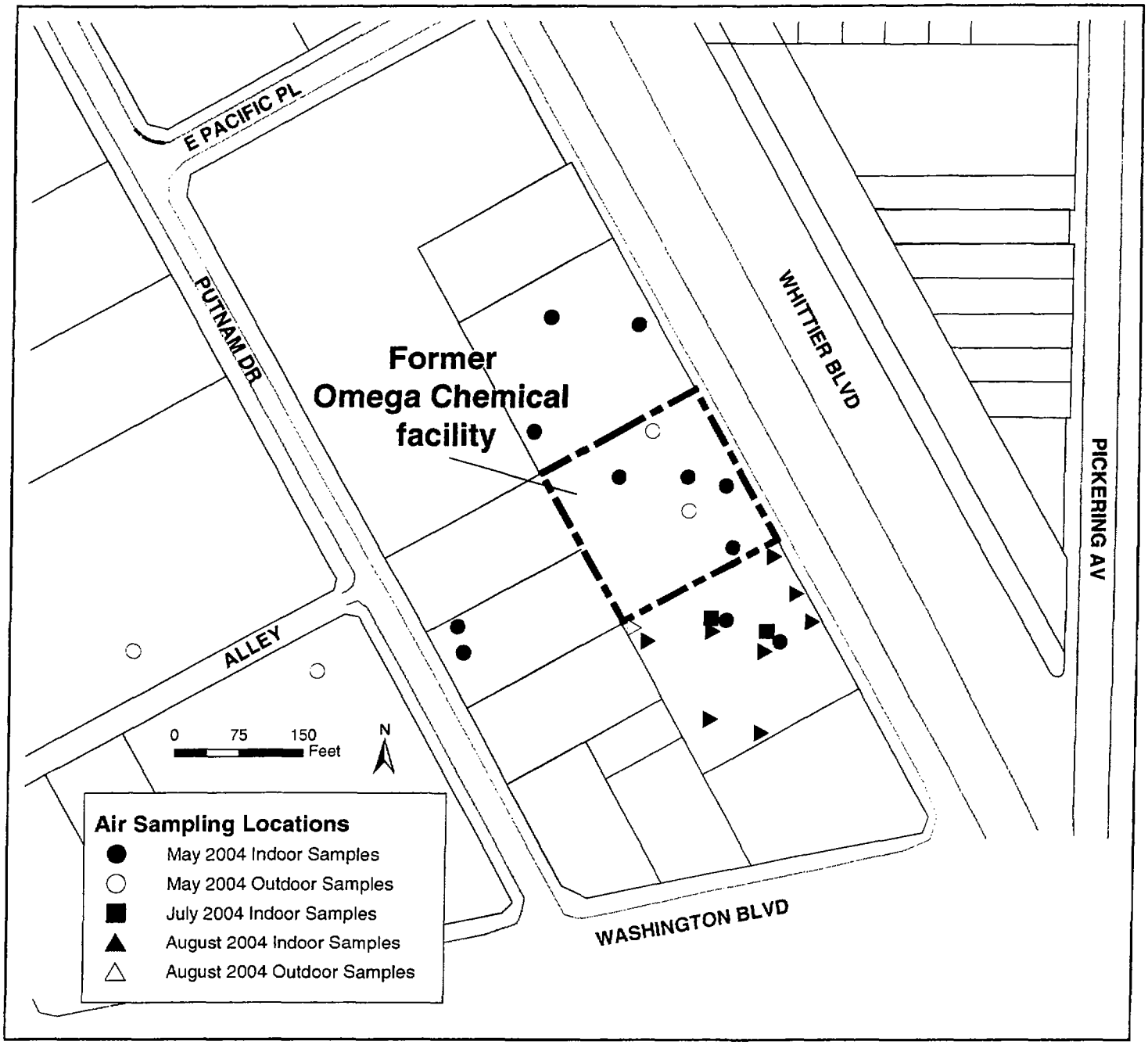

Figure 2: Air sampling locations

Skateland Indoor Air Results

The EPA received the initial sampling data in late July 2004, which showed a maximum PCE level of 1100 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m^3) in Skateland. This level is below the short-term criterion of 1400 ug/m^3, but higher than the EPA's long-term screening range of 0.32-32 ug/m^3. The EPA has focused its initial attention on reducing the contaminant levels in Skateland because the levels were higher than in other buildings and because of the public use of that building, including children.

Subsequent samples collected from Skateland contained lower PCE levels, possibly due to increased air flow through the building and/or chemical products being removed from inside the building. The EPA received the subsequent sample data in early September. The maximum PCE level in these later samples was 770 ug/m^3 and eight-hour samples collected from the center of the skating rink had PCE levels ranging from 66 to 320 ug/m^3. These levels are below the short-term criteria, meaning that there is not an immediate health threat, but still above the accepted levels for continous exposure over 30 years.

Other contaminants were generally present at lower levels than PCE (see Table 1). Additional data will be collected to confirm contaminant levels throughout the building, and to identify specific pathways of contaminant migration.

What is EPA Doing Now?

EPA is working with the PRPs to implement short-term (interim) and long-term mitigation measures. The best way to reduce indoor air contaminant levels in the short-term is to increase ventilation. EPA staff have talked to both the owner and operator at Skateland and requested that they ventilate the building and increase indoor air exchange with outside air. The PRPs are also working with Skateland to install air purifiers that will further

Table 1: Air Contaminant Levels (All Buildings)

Chemical	Indoor Air Levels (ug/m^3)	Upwind Outdoor Air Levels (ug/m^3)	Short-term Screening Levels (ug/m^3)[1]	Long-term Screening Levels (ug/m^3)[2]
PCE	0.14-1100	0.56-0.86	1400	0.32-32
TCE	0.11-270	0.41-0.48	540	0.96-1.7
1,1-DCE	0.04-550	0.071-0.16	Not available	210
Freon 11	0.11-350	1.57-1.80	Not available	730
Freon 113	0.15-1300	0.71-1.10	Not available	31,000

[1] Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Minimal Risk Levels, August 2004.

[2] US EPA Region 9, Ambient Air, Preliminary Remediation Goals, October 2004. For carcinogens, these numbers represent a one-in-one million to one-in-ten thousand excess cancer risk. The TCE numbers reflect both the U.S. EPA provisional and California EPA criteria.

reduce contaminant levels, and to seal cracks in the floor that may be acting as points of entry for vapors to get into the building. Additional indoor air samples will be collected to verify the effectiveness of these measures.

Is my Drinking Water Affected by VOCs in Groundwater?

Contaminant levels in municipal drinking water wells downgradient of the former Omega facility meet drinking water standards. Routine monitoring is conducted by municipal water purveyors to ensure that drinking water standards are not exceeded.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is available for citizens who live near a Superfund site. The grant helps qualified citizen groups affected by a Superfund site to hire an independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related information. An initial grant of up to $50,000 is available. For further information about the grant, please call us and request an application (toll-free 800-231-3075) or get it from the TAG web page at: www.epa.gov -- Type TAG in the search box and press GO.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact:

Jacqueline Lane (SFD-3)
Community Involvement Coordinator
Direct line: (415) 972-3236
Lane.Jackie@epa.gov

Christopher Lichens (SFD-7-4)
Remedial Project Manager
Direct line: (415) 972-3149
Lichens.Christopher@epa.gov

U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

or call the toll-free message line:
800-231-3075

Site Information Repositories

The U.S. EPA maintains site information repositories at the Whittier Public Library and at the U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center. These repositories contain project documents, fact sheets, and reference materials. The U.S. EPA encourages you to review these documents to gain a more complete understanding of the site. The information repositories' locations are listed below.

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 464-3450

The U.S. EPA also has a site information web page at: **http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf** Scroll to the Omega Chemical site.

EPA Evaluates Indoor Air at Omega Chemical Site

EPA evalúa el aire adentro en el sitio Omega Chemical

Estimado residente:
Si prefiere este folleto en español, por favor llame 1-800-231-3075 y deje su nombre y domicilio. Se lo enviaremos inmediatamente.

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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Attn: Jacqueline Lane (Omega 11/04)

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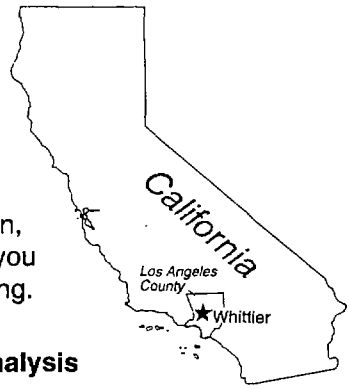
Omega Chemical Superfund Site

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • AUGUST 2005

Proposed Plan for Interim Groundwater Action

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) have been conducting an investigation of the **groundwater*** and soil contamination at the Omega Chemical Superfund Site in Whittier, CA. The EPA requests public comments on the **Proposed Plan** to contain groundwater contamination associated with the property formerly used by the Omega Chemical Corporation (Omega).



The 30-day public comment period will begin on August 8, 2005 and end on September 7, 2005. On August 22, 2005 the EPA will have a public meeting to present the Proposed Plan, answer questions, and receive public comments on the Proposed Plan. In the box below, you will find the time and place for the public meeting and how the public can comment in writing.

This fact sheet summarizes the EPA's preferred cleanup alternative and other alternatives evaluated. The public can review the detailed July 2005 **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report** (EE/CA) and other site documents at the Site's information repositories (see page 5 for locations).

Introduction

To better handle large site cleanups, EPA often separates the cleanup actions into parts called Operable Units. At the Omega Chemical Superfund site, Operable Unit One (OU-1) includes soil and groundwater contamination on and near the former Omega property. Operable Unit Two (OU-2) includes groundwater contamination that has migrated **downgradient** (southwest) of OU-1 (see Figure 1, page 2). The EPA is continuing to assess the nature and extent of groundwater contamination within OU-2.

Comment Period

The EPA encourages the public to comment on this proposed interim groundwater cleanup action at the Omega Chemical Superfund Site. The comment period is August 8, 2005 through September 7, 2005. You can comment in person at the public meeting and in writing to the remedial project manager.

Please send comments, postmarked no later than September 7, 2005 by mail, fax, or email to:

Christopher Lichens, Remedial Project Manager
US EPA Region 9, SFD-7-4
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct Line: (415) 972-3149
Fax Number: (415) 947-3526
Lichens.Christopher@epa.gov

Public Meeting

DATE:..... August 22, 2005

TIME: ..... 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

LOCATION: .... Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital
12401 Washington Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90602-1006

*All words in **bold** are defined in the Glossary on page 5.

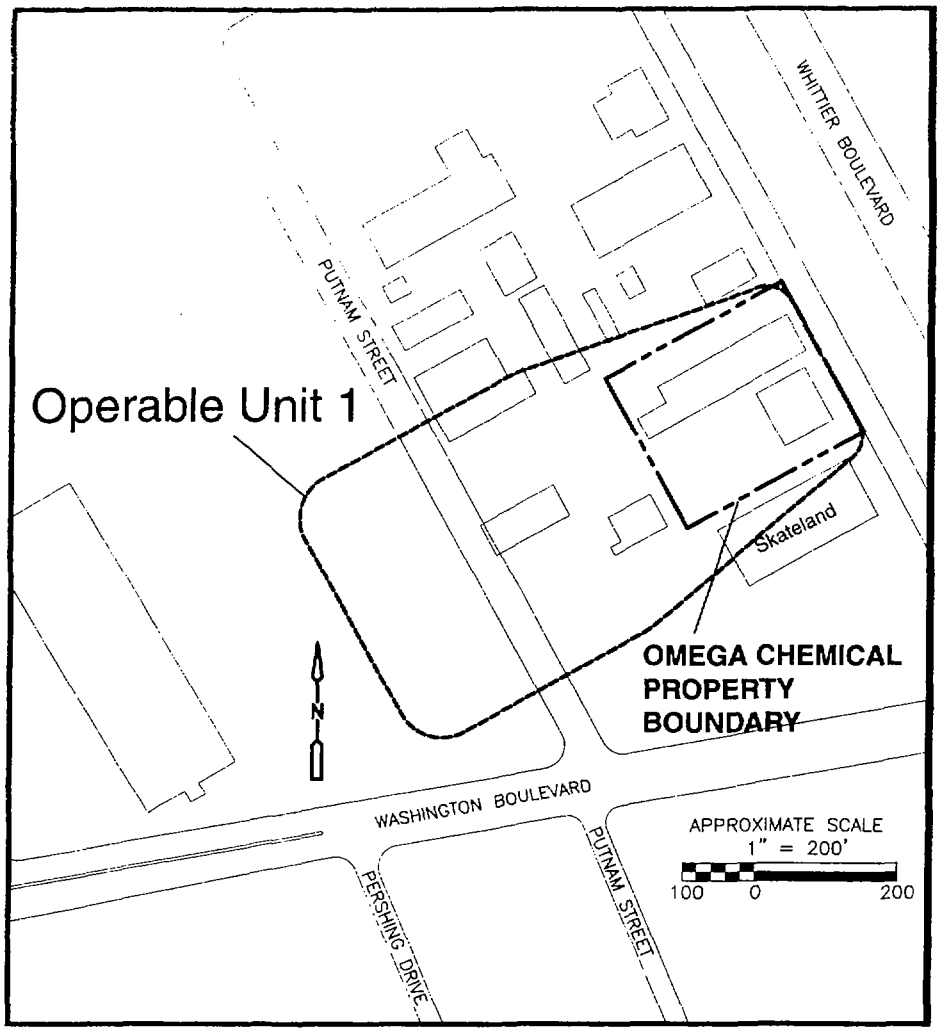


Figure 1: Location of Omega Chemical Superfund Site, showing Operable Unit 1

In 2001, the EPA signed a settlement agreement called a Consent Decree (CD) with the Omega Chemical Site PRP Organized Group (OPOG) to investigate soil and groundwater contamination within OU-1. The CD also specifies that OPOG will implement an interim remedy to contain the existing contaminated groundwater within OU-1. OPOG is conducting the work required by the CD under EPA's oversight.

In addition to the groundwater investigation, OPOG is conducting a soil **remedial investigation** and **feasibility study** (RI/FS) within OU-1. This RI/FS will evaluate the nature and extent of soil contamination associated with the property and provide EPA with the basis for selecting an appropriate cleanup alternative. When the RI/FS is complete, EPA will present the proposed soil cleanup action to the public for comment before selecting the remedy.

Scope and Objectives of this Proposed Action

This Proposed Plan presents EPA's preferred alternative for the initial groundwater cleanup in OU-1, which is being conducted as a **non-time-critical removal action.** It is also an interim action, meaning that a more comprehensive groundwater cleanup alternative will be implemented at a later date. The primary goal, or Removal Action Objective (RAO), of this interim action is to contain contaminated groundwater within OU-1 and prevent its migration to OU-2 until a permanent cleanup remedy is selected for the Site. The **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis** (EE/CA), a report prepared by OPOG, evaluates potential removal actions which could contain contamination within the OU-1 area. These potential removal actions are the alternatives evaluated in the EE/CA.

The purpose of this Proposed Plan is to summarize the alternatives considered in the EE/CA so that the public can provide comments. The Proposed Plan and the EE/CA report are both included in the Administrative Record file, located in the information repositories. At the end of the public comment period, EPA will review the comments and make a final decision on the interim cleanup plan. The EPA will memorialize its decision in an **Action Memorandum** that will include a **responsiveness summary** addressing comments submitted by the public. The Action Memorandum will be placed in the information repositories and notice of its availability will be announced in the local newspaper.

Contaminants of Concern

The **contaminants of concern** at the Omega Site are **volatile organic compounds** (VOCs). The primary VOCs of concern are tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE). PCE and TCE are solvents that have been widely used by industry as cleaning and degreasing agents. 1,1-DCE is not commonly used in commercial products but can be formed when

other VOCs degrade. Another group of VOCs, freons, are also contaminants at the Omega Site. Freons are used as coolants and pressurizers in spray can products.

Cleanup Alternatives

Using data and other information gathered through investigation of the Omega Site, removal action alternatives were identified to contain contaminated groundwater and remove contaminant mass. Each alternative would require construction and operation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system. For non-time-critical removals, which are usually interim actions, alternatives are evaluated based on three primary criteria: 1) effectiveness in achieving removal action objectives, 2) implementability under specific conditions at the site, and 3) estimated cost. The specific alternatives evaluated are as follows:

Alternative 1: Source Area Contaminant Mass Removal from Groundwater. This alternative includes groundwater extraction and treatment from fourteen wells in the suspected source area on the Omega property, where the highest contaminant concentrations have been found. Treatment to remove VOCs will include a combination of an advanced oxidation process (AOP), using hydrogen peroxide and ozone, and granular activated carbon. Following treatment, groundwater would likely be discharged under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the storm drain or sanitary sewer. Re-injection of treated water would be considered if a suitable location can be identified. The estimated total cost to implement this alternative is $7.6 million over 30 years; this includes $3.5 million in capital costs and $4.1 million in operation and maintenance costs. All costs are in 2005 dollars.

Alternative 2: Putnam Street Hydraulic Containment of Groundwater. This is the EPA's preferred alternative. It calls for groundwater extraction and treatment from five wells along Putnam Street. The treatment and discharge processes would be the same as for Alternative 1. By installing the wells on Putnam Street, groundwater can be captured and contained over a larger area than Alternative 1 allows. In other words, the objective of containing contaminated groundwater within OU-1 is more completely achieved. The estimated total cost to implement this alternative is $6.4 million over 30 years; this includes $2.7 million in capital costs and $3.7 million in operation and maintenance costs.

Alternative 3: Putnam Street Hydraulic Containment of Groundwater with Re-injection for Enhanced Anaerobic Biodegradation. This alternative also includes groundwater extraction and treatment from five wells along Putnam Street. After treatment to remove VOCs, most of the water would be discharged to the storm drain or sanitary sewer under an NPDES permit. Approximately one-quarter of the treated water would be combined with an additive, which would then be re-injected into the area of highest contaminant concentrations. The additive would modify groundwater conditions to stimulate anaerobic biodegradation of VOCs and reduce the mass of the primary contaminants of concern.

Treated water would be re-injected into a 75-foot deep trench on the former Omega property. The estimated total cost to implement this alternative

SITE HISTORY

The former Omega property is located at 12504 and 12512 East Whittier Boulevard in the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, California. The property is approximately 40,000 square feet in area. From 1976 to 1991, the Omega Chemical Corporation operated a used solvent and refrigerant recycling and reformulation treatment facility. The facility primarily handled chemicals used in refrigerator and freezer coils and chlorinated solvents that included degreasing chemicals and dry-cleaning chemicals.

In the late 1980s, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Public Works Department and the Fire Department investigated the Omega facility. Contamination was found in shallow soil at depths less than 3.5 feet below ground surface and at concentrations up to 1000 parts per million (ppm). The site was referred to the EPA's Emergency Response Section in 1995. Also in 1995, the EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to over 170 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to remove contaminants that posed an immediate or substantial threat to public health and the environment. This included removal of grossly contaminated soil and more than 2700 drums from the property. In 1999, EPA added the Omega Site to the National Priorities List (NPL). In 2001, EPA entered into the Consent Decree with OPOG to conduct the groundwater and soil investigations discussed above.

is $9.0 million over 20 years; this includes $3.9 million in capital costs and $5.1 million in operation and maintenance costs.

Comparative Analysis of Alternatives. The primary goal of this interim action is to control migration of contaminated groundwater. Alternatives 2 and 3 would be the most effective in accomplishing this goal; Alternative 1 would be less effective than the other two because groundwater containment would be focused on the source area on the Omega property itself.

Alternatives 1 and 3 would remove more contaminant mass from the subsurface than Alternative 2 because they include extraction closer to the source area (Alternative 1) and facilitate biodegradation (Alternative 3).

Alternative 2 would be the easiest to implement because extraction wells would be installed within a public right of way, with less disruption to surrounding properties. Alternatives 1 and 3 each call for construction on private commercial property. Alternatives 1 and 2 likely include discharge of treated water to the storm drain or sanitary sewer, which is easier to implement than re-injection (Alternative 3).

Alternative 2 has the lowest estimated cost, followed by Alternative 1, and Alternative 3.

Alternative 2 is EPA's preferred alternative because it is effective in achieving removal action objectives, it is more easily implemented, and it has the lowest estimated cost. The following table summarizes each alternative's rating with regard to effectiveness, implementability, and cost. A "high" rating is most favorable and a "low" rating is least favorable.

Next Steps

The public comment period on this Proposed Plan will run until September 7, 2005 (See box on page 1). After EPA evaluates all public comments and prepares the Action Memorandum, OPOG will proceed with the design of the selected alternative and prepare a Removal Action Plan. Field implementation, or construction, will begin after EPA approves this document. Construction is expected to begin in early 2006.

Technical Assistance Program

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is available for citizens who live near a **Superfund** site. The grant helps qualified citizen groups affected by a Superfund site to hire an independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related information. An initial grant of up to $50,000 is available. For further information about the grant, please call us and request an application (toll-free 800-231-3075) or get it from the TAG web page by going to the EPA website www.epa.gov, then typing "TAG" in the search box and pressing "GO."

Alternative	Effectiveness	Implementability	Cost	Overall
1. Source Area Contaminant Mass Removal	Low	Low	$7.6 million (30 years)	Low
2. Putnam Street Hydraulic Containment	High	High	$6.4 million (30 years)	High
3. Putnam Street Hydraulic Containment with Re-injection	High	Low	$9.0 million (20 years)	Medium

Site Information Repositories

EPA maintains site information repositories at the Whittier Public Library and at the EPA Superfund Records Center. These repositories contain project documents, fact sheets, and reference materials. EPA encourages you to review these documents to gain a more complete understanding of the site. The information repository's locations are listed below. EPA also has a site information web page at www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/. Choose Superfund Site from the menu on the left, scroll down and choose Site Overviews, then scroll to the Omega Chemical Corporation.

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 464-3450

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Action Memorandum: An EPA document that describes a selected removal action.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): A federal law first passed in 1980 and subsequently amended that created a trust fund, known as Superfund, to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Contaminants of concern: Site-specific chemicals that exceed regulatory levels or pose a potentially significant risk to human health and the environment.

Downgradient: In the direction of groundwater flow.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA): A document that evaluates alternatives to accomplish removal action objectives.

Feasibility Study: An EPA study that determines the best way to clean up environmental contamination.

Granular Activated Carbon: Pure carbon that can adsorb pollutants.

Groundwater: The supply of water found below the ground surface, usually in aquifers.

Non-time-critical removal action: Removal actions for situations where there is at least a six-month planning period available before on-site activities must be initiated to address a threat to public health or the environment.

Proposed Plan: A document that summarizes all of the cleanup alternatives that were studied as part of EE/CA process, and identifies the preferred cleanup alternative for a site.

Remedial Investigation: The CERCLA process of determining the type and extent of hazardous material contamination at a site.

Responsiveness Summary: A written summary of oral and/or written comments, criticisms, and new relevant information received by EPA during a public comment period and EPA's responses to these comments. A responsiveness summary is an appendix to an Action Memorandum.

Superfund: The common name for the process established by **CERCLA** to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Carbon-containing chemical compounds that evaporate readily at room temperature.

U.S. EPA Contacts • 75 Hawthorne Street • San Francisco, CA 94105

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U.S. EPA Region 9 (SFD-7-4)
Direct Line (415) 972-3179
Toll Free Number: (800) 231-3075
lichens.christopher@epa.gov

PROPOSED PLAN FOR INTERIM GROUNDWATER ACTION AT OMEGA

See EPA's Web site:

http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/sfund/

Public Comment and Meeting Information Inside

Estimado residente: Si prefiere este folleto **("Plan propuesto para la acción del agua subterránea del intermediario")** en español, por favor llame al 1-800-231-3075 y deje su nombre y domicilio. Se lo enviaremos inmediatamente.

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San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (2201A)
EPA 300-F-99-004 September 1999

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

INFORMATION SHEET

U.S. EPA Small Business Resources

If you own a small business, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a variety of compliance assistance and tools to assist you in complying with federal and State environmental laws. These resources can help you understand your environmental obligations, improve compliance and find cost-effective ways to comply through the use of pollution prevention and other innovative technologies.

EPA Websites

EPA has several Internet sites that provide useful compliance assistance information and materials for small businesses. Many public libraries provide access to the Internet at minimal or no cost.

EPA's Small Business Home Page (http://www.epa.gov/sbo) is a good place to start because it links with many other related websites. Other useful websites include:

EPA's Home Page
http://www.epa.gov

Small Business Assistance Programs
http://www.epa.gov/ttn/sbap

Compliance Assistance Home Page
http://www.epa.gov/oeca/oc

Office of Site Remediation Enforcement
http://www.epa.gov/oeca/osre

Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

EPA sponsors approximately 89 free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance on environmental requirements.

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Hotline can provide a list of all the hot lines and assist in determining the hotline best meeting your needs. Key hotlines include:

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman
(800) 368-5888

Hazardous Waste/Underground Tanks/Superfund
(800) 424-9346

National Response Center
(to report oil and hazardous substance spills)
(800) 424-8802

Toxics Substances and Asbestos Information
(202) 554-1404

Safe Drinking Water
(800) 426-4791

Stratospheric Ozone and Refrigerants Information
(800) 296-1996

Clean Air Technical Center
(919) 541-0800

Wetlands Hotline
(800) 832-7828

Continued on back

Office of Regulatory Enforcement Website: http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ore.html

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Compliance Assistance Centers

In partnership with industry, universities, and other federal and state agencies, EPA has established national Compliance Assistance Centers that provide Internet and "faxback" assistance services for several industries with many small businesses. The following Compliance Assistance Centers can be accessed by calling the phone numbers below and at their respective websites:

Metal Finishing
(1-800-AT-NMFRC or www.nmfrc.org)

Printing
(1-888-USPNEAC or www.pneac.org)

Automotive Service and Repair
(1-888-GRN-LINK or www.ccar-greenlink.org)

Agriculture
(1-888-663-2155 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ag)

Printed Wiring Board Manufacturing
(1-734-995-4911 or www.pwbrc.org)

The Chemical Industry
(1-800-672-6048 or www.chemalliance.org)

The Transportation Industry
(1-888-459-0656 or www.transource.org)

The Paints and Coatings Center
(1-800-286-6372 or www.paintcenter.org)

State Agencies

Many state agencies have established compliance assistance programs that provide on-site and other types of assistance. Contact your local state environmental agency for more information. For assistance in reaching state agencies, call EPA's Small Business Ombudsman at (800)-368-5888 or visit the Small Business Environmental Homepage at http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/state.html.

Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two policies that potentially apply to small businesses: The Audit Policy (http://www.epa.gov/oeca/auditpol.html) and the Small Business Policy (http://www.epa.gov/oeca/smbusi.html). These do not apply if an enforcement action has already been initiated.

Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established an ombudsman ("SBREFA Ombudsman") and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. The SBREFA Ombudsman will annually rate each agency's responsiveness to small businesses. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your Standard Industrial Code (SIC) designation, number of employees or annual receipts, defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit comments to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) or related provisions.