Riverside Agricultural Park (Ag Park) Neighborhood Soil Sampling

November 28, 2017

Background

In response to concerns expressed by the community members, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) developed and implemented a Neighborhood Sampling Plan (NSP) to evaluate several residential properties, and City of Riverside (City) properties (including Rutland Park and a City's right-of-way bordering the Riverside Agricultural Park on the west), adjacent to the Riverside Agricultural Park (Ag Park) site. The purpose of the NSP was to collect soil data to determine if chemicals known as Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) may have migrated to the neighborhood from the Ag Park via windblown dust, and if so, does this present any potential health risk.

DTSC prepared the NSP with input from the Ag Park Neighborhood Work Group, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Air Resources Board (CARB), United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), and the City of Riverside.

As discussed in the Community Update, DTSC and US EPA have determined that neighborhood sampling results demonstrated that conditions are health protective for residents of the properties adjacent to Ag Park that participated in the neighborhood sampling program.

Which Properties did DTSC Sample?

At DTSC's request, CARB conducted a scientific study (Air Dispersion Modeling) to predict where PCBs may be predominantly found in the neighborhood, if they were windblown from the Ag Park in the form of dust. Additional properties were selected based on input from the Ag Park Neighborhood Work Group, CDPH, CARB, and the City. Based on the results of the CARB air dispersion modeling analysis, and input from the above parties, DTSC selected 27 properties (25 residential properties and 2 properties owned by the City) adjacent to Ag Park for sampling.

What are PCBs?

PCBs belong to a broad family (Aroclors) of man-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. PCBs were domestically manufactured from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979. PCBs vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids. Due to their chemical properties, PCBs were commonly used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications.

PCBs can cause short-term and long-term health effects. For more information about PCBs including health effects, please go to [HYPERLINK

"https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs" \l "healtheffects"].

How Were Soil Samples Collected and Analyzed?

Soil samples were collected within 6 inches of the ground surface to evaluate dust deposits. Single use, individually wrapped and sealed scoops were used to collect the samples which were then transferred to laboratory certified glass containers. In some cases, deeper soil samples (up to 2.5 feet below ground surface) were obtained using a manual hand-auger to bore down to the desired depth.

All samples were analyzed for PCBs (various family compounds of PCBs or Aroclors) by DTSC's Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL), using US EPA approved analytical methods. US EPA also took some split samples and analyzed them independent of DTSC's ECL laboratory.

Who Can I Call for More Information?

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amit Pathak, DTSC Project Manager at (714) 484-5468 or at [HYPERLINK "mailto:Amit.Pathak@dtsc.ca.gov"].

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