STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2004

Prepared on September 21, 2004

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: LOW THREAT CASES

DISCUSSION

Low Threat and General Discharge Cases

General NPDES Permit:

Red Diamond Cooling, Inc., Santa Barbara County [Sorrel Marks 805/549-3695]

Red Diamond Cooling submitted a Notice of Intent to comply with the General NPDES Permit for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality (Low Threat General Permit) for discharges from a vegetable cooling facility west of Santa Maria, in Santa Barbara County. Discharges include water from vegetable cooling sprays, melted ice, firewater system, reverse osmosis water treatment and heat exchanger evaporative condensate. Discharges occur periodically throughout the year. Discharge is to an unlined roadside ditch tributary to the Solomon Drainageway., with maximum flows up to 72,000 gallons per day. Information provided in the Notice of Intent and from staff inspection of the facility and discharge indicates the discharge will not pose a significant threat to water quality and will meet the conditions required for discharge authorization under the Low Threat General Permit (Order No. 01-119). In accordance with permit conditions, Red Diamond Cooling will comply with discharge monitoring and annual reporting requirements throughout the life of permit coverage.

Santa Clara Valley Water District, Monitoring Well Discharges, Santa Clara County [Matthew Keeling, 805/549-3685]

Regional Board staff received an application from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Discharger) to discharge groundwater from up to nine proposed monitoring wells at six locations in southern Santa Clara County. The discharge of groundwater will result from development of the newly installed wells. Clean well development water will be captured to allow settling of particulate matter and sampling for perchlorate prior to discharge to adjacent streams or drainages. Where practicable, development water will be discharged on-site to the ground surface. The anticipated discharge of development water from each well will occur at flow rates of less than 50 gallons per minute for a total discharge of up to 9,000 gallons per well. Existing outfalls with slope protection will be utilized for discharging water where practicable. Where existing outfalls are not available, best management practices will be implemented to minimize and mitigate erosion and sedimentation. Well construction drill cuttings and drilling mud will be contained at each site in drying pits and will be graded into existing maintenance roads.

Groundwater containing perchlorate at levels exceeding the California action level for drinking water (6 milligrams per liter) will be treated/disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The Discharger has agreed to comply with the General Permit, and will implement mitigation measures to avoid or mitigate significant impacts. The Discharger was notified of its enrollment in the General Low Threat Permit on September 29, 2004.

General Waste Discharge Requirements:

General Waste Discharge Requirements for Wineries:

Small Winery Waivers, [Matt Thompson, 805/549-3159]

On November 1, 2002, the Regional Board adopted *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste* (General Winery WDR). A component of the General Winery WDR authorizes the Executive Officer to grant waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements to small wineries that pose little or no threat to water quality. The General Winery WDR defines "small winery" as crushing less than or equal to 80 tons of grapes per year, or producing less than or equal to 5,000 cases or 13,000 gallons of wine per year. In general, small wineries generate 200 to 300 gallons-per-day (long-term average) of process wastewater, most of which originates from equipment (tanks, barrels, floors, etc.) cleaning. Waivers expire five years from the date granted or whenever the winery no longer meets the definition of small, whichever is sooner.

The following table identifies wineries granted Small Winery Waivers between August 1, 2004, and September 16, 2004.

Facility Name	Facility Location	Facility Owner	Production and Discharge Description	Date Waiver Granted
Fratelli Perata	1595 Arbor Road, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County	Joseph A. Perata and Eugene M. Perata	Fratelli Perata produces less than 2,500 cases of wine per year. Wastewater is reused for vineyard irrigation. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet	August 6, 2004
Sycamore Farms	2485 Hwy 46 West, Paso Robles	G. Bruce Shomler	Sycamore Farms produces less than 80 cases of wine per year. Wastewater is reused for vineyard irrigation. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet	August 12, 2004
AJB Vineyards	3280 Township Road, Paso Robles	A. John Berardo	AJB Vineyards produces less than 650 cases of wine per year. Wastewater flows by gravity to a gunite-lined sump for evaporation. The sump is presumably lined to preclude discharge. However, the sump is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater is greater than 20 feet.	August 12, 2004
Stacked Stone Cellars	1525 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles	Don Thiessen	Stacked Stone Cellars produces less than 2,500 cases of wine per year. Wastewater is reused for vineyard irrigation. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet	August 12, 2004
Opolo Vineyards	7110 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles	Richard L. Quinn	Opolo Vineyards produces less than 5,000 cases of wine per year. Process wastewater will be processed using septic tank and leachfield system. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 100 feet.	August 12, 2004

Facility Name	Facility Location	Facility Owner	Production and Discharge Description	Date Waiver Granted
Mikulics Winery	995 El Pomar Road, Templeton	Mathew Mikulics	Mikulics Winery produces about 5,000 cases of wine per year. Wastewater is reused for vineyard irrigation. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet	August 12, 2004
Ahlgren Vineyard	20320 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, Santa Cruz County	Dexter Ahlgren	Ahlgren Vineyard produces less than 5,000 cases of wine per year. Wastewater is reused for vineyard irrigation. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 100 feet	August 12, 2004
Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards	1947 See Canyon Road, Near Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo County	Dick Kelsey	Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards produces up to 3,500 cases of wine per year and generates up to 1,000 gallons-per-day of process wastewater. Process wastewater is discharged to a 1,250-gallon septic tank and two 75-foot long infiltrator-type leachfields. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies.	August 12, 2004
JanKris Winery	1266 Bethel Road, Templeton, San Luis Obispo County	Mark Gendron	Jankris Winery produces less than 650 cases of wine per year. Winery wastewater from equipment, floor and barrel cleaning is collected and broadcast over an approx. 20-acre area in the middle of a 54-acre vineyard block, approximately 1,000 feet from the nearest supply well. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet.	August 13, 2004
Wild Coyote Winery	3775 Adelaida Road, Paso Robles	Gianni Manucci	Wild Coyote Winery produces up to 4,500 cases of wine per year and generates up to 350 gallons-per-day of process wastewater. Winery wastewater from equipment, floor and barrel cleaning is screened at floor drains, passed trough a 1,500-gallon septic tank, then gravity flows to an HDPE-lined vineyard irrigation storage reservoir. Depth to groundwater beneath the disposal area is greater than 20 feet. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies.	August 27, 2004
Doce Robles Winery	2023 Twelve Oaks Drive, Paso Robles	Jim Jacobsen	Doce Robles Winery produces less than 2,500 cases of wine per year and generates minimal process wastewater. Process wastewater is discharged to a septic tank and leachfield system. The disposal area is greater than 100 feet from any water supply wells or water bodies.	September 16, 2004

General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste:

Bianchi Vineyard, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County [Tom Kukol 805/549-3689]

Regional Board staff enrolled Bianchi Vineyard under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Winery Waste on August 30, 2004. The Regional Board did not previously regulate Bianchi Vineyard. Bianchi Vineyard is located at 3380 Branch Road in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County. Wine production is currently 50,000 cases per year. Process wastewater is stabilized in an oxidation pond system prior to vineyard irrigation Bianchi Vineyard is subject to Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2003-0084. Staff may begin regular inspections of Bianchi Vineyard to ensure continued compliance with the General WDRs.

Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements:

Buttonwood Farms Winery, Solvang, Santa Barbara County [Matt Thompson, 805/549-3159]

Staff tentatively enrolled Buttonwood Farm Winery, 1500 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang, Santa Barbara County, under General Waiver Resolution No. 2002-0115 on September 20, 2004. Buttonwood Farm Winery produces 7,500 cases of wine annually, and generates up to approximately 900 gallons per day of process wastewater during the harvest season. Process wastewater is screened by floor screens, settled in a 2,500-gallon septic tank, and disposed in a 60-foot deep dry well. Groundwater is approximately 70 feet below the bottom of the dry well. The nearest water supply well is 530 feet away from the dry well. Pomace, seeds, and stems are composted, spread throughout 39 acres of vineyard, and disked into the soil.

Buttonwood Farm Winery's waiver is contingent on satisfaction of the following conditions:

- Compliance with the Prohibitions, Recommendations, and Specifications of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Wineries;
- Pomace, lees, bentonite, and diatomaceous earth shall be excluded from the septic system to the extent practicable.
- Any incidence of overflow from the wastewater system shall be reported to the Executive Officer within 24 hours.
- Staff shall be allowed to visit the facility in the future to ensure continued compliance with these conditions.

Staff recommends the Regional Board concur with waiving Waste Discharge Requirements for Buttonwood Farm Winery under these conditions. This conditional waiver will expire October 22, 2009.

General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Fruit and Vegetable Processing Facilities:

Pride of San Juan, Inc., San Benito County, [Matthew Keeling 805/549-3685]

Regional Board staff enrolled Pride of San Juan, Inc., under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Waste, Order No. R3-2004-0066, on August 24, 2004. Pride of San Juan was previously unregulated by the Regional Board.

Pride of San Juan's waste discharge is described as follows:

- Pride of San Juan, Inc., owns and operates a salad and vegetable packaging business located in San Benito County, at 1275 San Justo Road, San Juan Bautista, CA 95023.
- Prior to packaging, vegetables are washed with potable water containing chlorine and citric acid.
- During the processing season, March to November, current wastewater flow is 10,000 gallons per day (GPD) and is expected to increase 150,000 GPD within the next 5-7 years. At 150,000 GPD the facility will be considered a medium sized fruit and vegetable processing facility. Off-season wastewater flow results from cleaning and maintenance

activities and is estimated at less than 5,000 GPD.

- Process wastewater will be settled in a bermed pond and filtered prior to being recycled for irrigation by blending it with normal irrigation water supplies. The expected blending ratio is expected to be one part process water to four parts surface water. In accordance with Specification D.5 of the General Order Pride of San Juan has been granted a variance to required treatment pond liners.

Enrollment under the General WDRs requires Pride of San Juan to comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2004-0066. The MRP has been modified to eliminate content not relevant to the facility (such as monitoring frequencies for smaller and larger fruit and vegetable processors). Water supply quality, production, chemical usage, influent, effluent, pond, and disposal area monitoring are required. Groundwater and disposal area soils monitoring are not required as the treatment and disposal method presents little or no threat to underlying groundwater quality. Regional Board staff will regularly inspect Pride of San Juan to ensure continued compliance with the General WDRs.

Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 97-10-DWQ:

Santa Cruz County Service Area (CSA) No. 5, Sand Dollar Beach and Canon del Sol; CSA No. 20, Trestle Beach [Mike Higgins 805/542 -4649]

Summary. County Service Areas (CSAs) Nos. 5 and 20 treat and dispose of domestic wastewater in compliance with the provisions of Order No. 97-10-DWQ. Therefore, staff enrolled the three treatment and disposal systems in the CSAs under Order No. 97-10-DWQ (Attached).

Background. On January 21, 2004, the County of Santa Cruz submitted reports of waste discharge (ROWD) for CSA No. 5 and CSA No. 20. The ROWDs provided descriptions of the treatment plants, plant process flow diagrams, compliance histories, and best management practices. The ROWDs provided monitoring data for all pollutants specified in existing monitoring programs.

CSA No. 5 comprises the Sand Dollar Beach and Canon del Sol residential developments and CSA No. 20 comprises the Trestle Beach community. Santa Cruz County (Discharger) operates and maintains the CSAs' treatment and disposal systems. Each CSA treats domestic wastewater in extended aeration activated sludge plants composed of aeration tanks, clarifiers, and aerobic digesters. Trestle Beach discharges approximately 4,000 gallons per day (gpd) to a treatment plant with a 10,000-gpd design flow, Sand Dollar Beach discharges close to 9,000 gpd to a 25,000-gpd plant, and Canon del Sol discharges approximately 10,000 gpd to a 30,000-gpd plant. Treated effluent is discharged to drywells completed in the Aromas Sand formation, which contains groundwater flowing generally oceanward 60 to 75 feet deep. The Discharger disposes of plant biosolids at the City of Watsonville's wastewater treatment plant.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. 89-64 currently regulates wastewater discharges at Canon del Sol, WDRs Order No. 89-71 at Sand Dollar Beach, and WDRs Order No. 89-90 at Trestle Beach. The WDRs limit effluent daily maximum settleable solids to 0.1 mL/L and the quarterly average and daily maximum suspended solids to 50 and 75 mg/L, respectively. Effluent pH must never exceed 8.4 or fall below 6.5. Monitoring and Reporting Programs require weekly influent monitoring for flow and effluent monitoring for settleable and suspended solids. Semi-annual monitoring is required for Total Dissolved Solids, chloride, pH, and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen.

Monitoring data demonstrate the discharges from the treatment plants have invariably complied with all effluent limitations included in the WDR Orders.

Order No. 97-10-DWQ specifies waste discharge requirements for small domestic wastewater treatment systems, defined as those with maximum flows of 20,000 gallons per day or less. The small systems must discharge to land disposal facilities, such as leachfields, drywells, or ponds.

Order 97-10-DWQ prohibits the discharge from polluting groundwater or surface waters.
The Order requires the following for all small systems: the systems shall be essentially odor-free and sited, designed, constructed, operated, maintained and monitored in accordance with the Basin Plan; the Discharger shall not exceed the plant's design flow; and the discharge shall comply with the Basin Plan. For activated sludge systems, the Discharger must comply with the following additional requirements: waste disposal at landfills must comply with CCR Title 23, Chapter 15, the Discharger must apply biosolids to land in accordance with existing law, and the Discharger shall submit a sludge disposal plan to the Executive Officer for review and approval.

Discussion. The wastewater treatment and disposal systems are all small systems, discharging average flows substantially less than Order 97-10-DWQ's allowable maximum of 20,000 gpd. Discussions with CSA staff indicate the communities composing the CSAs will likely grow slowly, ensuring compliance with Order No. 97-10-DWQ, and plant capacity, well into the future.

Changing the Board's regulatory tool from individual WDR orders to Order No. 97-10-DWQ, a less site-specific General Order, should not impair plant performance in the future. This is because the Order clearly assigns responsibility to the Discharger for compliance with requirements in Order 97-10DWQ, the Basin Plan, and state and federal law. Also, County staff is continually on duty to adequately oversee and respond to disruptions at the treatment plant and disposal systems. Lastly, routine inspections by Regional Board staff will provide additional support to enable County staff to maintain the plants and disposal systems in a good state of repair.

Staff modified Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 97-10-DWQ to continue effluent monitoring for the same pollutants at the same frequencies required by the individual monitoring programs. Staff also added annual nitrate monitoring to the program.

Based on the following facts, staff infers the discharges do not impair the underlying groundwater's beneficial uses as potable water, or agricultural and industrial supply waters. First, USGS monitoring found no degradation of groundwater quality over a span of 22 years. Second, the discharges are very small compared to the volume of groundwater, and groundwater likely adequately assimilates the pollutants in the discharges. Third, the discharges combine with groundwater in its flow to the nearby Pacific Ocean, and the area where groundwater could be affected is very small.

Conclusions and Recommendations. Staff concludes the plants will likely continue to provide a high level of wastewater treatment and thereby continue to protect groundwater quality. Wastewater flow and strength will remain fairly constant and well within ranges the plants can accommodate. Regulation of the discharges from these wastewater treatment plants by means of the waste discharge requirements in Order No. 97-10-DWQ should adequately protect groundwater beneficial uses.

Staff proposes the Board rescind WDR Orders Nos. 89-64, 89-71, and 89-90 by means of a separate item on the agenda for this public meeting.

Attachments

1. WDRs Order No. 97-10-DWQ
2. Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program 97-10-DWQ

Vina Robles Hospitality Building, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County [Tom Kukol 805\549-3689]

Staff received a complete report of waste discharge for the Vina Robles Hospitality Building, which indicated that it will employ up to 25 persons and serve as a 150-person restaurant, 27-seat bar, and a 125-visitor tasting room. A septic tank and leachfield system will process up to 3,100-gallons per day of sanitary wastewater from the restaurant, bar, and tasting room. The Vina Robles Hospitality Building will also host up to 400 people during special events. The aforementioned septic tank and leachfield system is not designed to accommodate both the restaurant guests and the special event guests simultaneously, so when the restaurant kitchen will be used to cater special events, normal restaurant operations will cease and

portable toilets will be provided. The development's use permit requires the Vina Robles Hospitality Building to connect to the City of Paso Robles' public sewer system prior to issuance of a building permit for the second phase of the development.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order No. 97-10-DWQ (General Order) to regulate Discharges to Land by Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. Regulating small domestic wastewater treatment systems using the General Order simplifies and standardizes the regulatory process. The Vina Robles Hospitality Building meets the enrollment criteria for the General Order, and staff enrolled this discharger.

Recommended Underground Tank Case Closures:

Kett Ranch, 110 Carlton Road, Watsonville, Santa Cruz County; [Tom Sayles 805-542-4640]

One 3,000-gallon diesel and one 5,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) were removed on July 21, 1999. Soil samples collected from the beneath the USTs indicated no impacts by petroleum hydrocarbons, however, a maximum concentration of 2,100 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg) total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-G), 3.6 mg/kg benzene, and 12 mg/kg methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) were detected in the shallow soil beneath the gasoline dispenser, and 28,000 mg/kg total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-D) was detected beneath the diesel dispenser. A November 18, 1999 site investigation indicate a maximum concentration of 2,700 micrograms per liter (µg/L) TPH-D, 590 µg/L benzene, and 65 µg/L MTBE was detected in a grab groundwater sample within 15 feet downgradient of the source area.

Following the November 1999 investigation, groundwater monitoring wells were installed to evaluate the extent of hydrocarbon impacts to groundwater. The initial concentration in groundwater detected a maximum of 2.4 µg/L benzene. All other petroleum hydrocarbon constituents were below this Regional Boards cleanup goals.

Remedial excavation activities were completed on February 3, 2004 and February 19, 2004, removing approximately three cubic yards of impacted soil in the source area beneath the dispenser islands. Groundwater samples collected on February 19, 2004, indicate a maximum detection of 86 µg/L benzene in monitoring well MW-5 immediately downgradient of the source area. The 86 µg/L benzene appears anomalous compared to previous concentrations showing a decreasing trend from a maximum of 45 µg/L benzene in February 2003 to 5.9 µg/L in June 2004 and may be attributed to the soil disturbances from the excavation. The overall decreasing trend, the removal of the source area along with natural attenuation appears to have been effective in reducing hydrocarbon impacted concentrations in the soil and groundwater at the site. The most recent groundwater monitoring results, (second quarter 2004) indicate all hydrocarbon constituents are below cleanup goals with the exception of benzene at 5.9 µg/L in MW-5 and 4.7 µg/L in MW-2.

The site lies within the Watsonville Hydrologic Unit, which the "Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region" (Basin Plan) designates groundwater as having beneficial uses for domestic and municipal supply, agricultural supply, and industrial supply. Therefore, cleanup goals for common hydrocarbon constituents are as follows: 1,000 µg/L– total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), 1 µg/L – benzene, 150 µg/L – toluene, 300 µg/L – ethylbenzene, 1,750 µg/L – xylenes, and 5 µg/L – MTBE. Cleanup goals for MTBE and TPH have been established based on taste and odor thresholds.

Groundwater is approximately 11 to 13 feet below ground surface and flows to the south at 0.05 foot/foot, and occurs in a clay-rich soil zone with low permeability. The extent of hydrocarbon impacts and subsurface conditions have been adequately characterized. The two monitoring wells (MW-2 and MW-5) containing residual hydrocarbon contamination above cleanup goals are located between 15 and 30 feet downgradient of the source area. All other wells are below cleanup goals.

There are no drinking water supply wells located within 1/2-mile of the site. The nearest well is located approximately 215 feet upgradient of the source area and is used for industrial purposes for the onsite ranch. Recent video logs indicate the well is perforated between 140–217 feet below

grade and analytical data collected from a June 15, 2004 sampling was non detect for TPH, benzene, and MTBE. Because of the low benzene concentrations, distance upgradient from the source, and well construction details, residual hydrocarbon concentrations remaining in the groundwater are not expected to impact this well.

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services staff agrees that no further action is required with respect to this leaking underground storage tank case. The current property owner, the responsible party, and responsible party's consultant have been notified of Regional Board staff's recommendation for case closure.

Regional Board staff recommends closure for this site based on the following: (1) the contaminant mass has been removed from the site to the extent practical, (2) the plume is well defined, confined to two near-by monitoring wells, constrained onsite and is declining in size and concentration, (3) benzene remains in only two wells at concentrations of 5.9 µg/L and 4.7 µg/L. Based on historical monitoring data, the benzene concentration is expected to continue to decrease with time through natural attenuation.

Closure is consistent with Section III.G. State Board Resolution No. 92-49, allowing 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 prescribed by the Basin Plan. Unless the Regional Board objects with staff's recommendation for case closure, staff will direct the responsible party and responsible party's consultant to properly destroy the groundwater monitoring wells prior to issuing a formal case closure letter.

Arco Service Station No 393, 1201 Ysabel Road, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County [Corey Walsh 805/542-4781]

Staff recommends closure of this underground storage tank case where recent (July 14, 2004) groundwater sample results indicate a maximum of 2.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) total petroleum hydrocarbons reported as gasoline (TPH-g). No other petroleum hydrocarbon constituents (e.g., benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and fuel oxygenates) were detected above the reporting limit in this, or the other four existing monitoring wells on-site. The property is an active service station.

Initial groundwater sample results from monitoring wells installed in February 1989, detected up to 1.8 mg/L TPH-g, and 25 micrograms per liter (µg/L) benzene. Subsequent investigation and monitoring detected up to 3.3 mg/L TPH-g, 510 µg/L benzene, and 2,300 methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). A total of 12 monitoring or remediation wells have been installed during the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Depth to groundwater was observed from approximately 8 to 17 feet below ground surface, and the groundwater flow direction is generally to the southeast at an approximate gradient of 0.07 ft/ft.

The nearest water supply well, City of Paso Robles Cuesta well, is approximately nine-tenths of a mile east of the site and across the Salinas River. The residual petroleum hydrocarbons remaining are unlikely to impact this well considering the well construction, river location, groundwater flow direction, and distance.

The site lies within the Atascadero Hydrologic Subarea (3-9.81) of the Salinas Hydrologic Unit, which the "Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region" (Basin Plan) designates groundwater beneficial uses to be domestic and municipal supply, agricultural supply, and industrial supply. Therefore, the groundwater cleanup goal for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) is 1 mg/L, benzene 1 µg/L, and MTBE 5 µg/L. The TPH and MTBE cleanup goals have been established based on taste and odor thresholds, not health risks.

The recommendation for closure is based on the following: (1) majority of contaminant mass has been removed using various remedial actions including soil excavation, vapor extraction, air sparging, and high vacuum dual phase extraction, (2) remaining groundwater pollution above cleanup goals is limited in extent, (3) TPH-g is the only remaining constituent, (4) observed decreasing concentration trends suggest the plume will continue to attenuate and meet groundwater

cleanup goals, and (5) closure is consistent with Section III.G. of State 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.

The responsible party and property owner are aware of the recommended case closure as required by the Health and Safety Code. In addition, San Luis Obispo County Division of Environmental Health as the lead agency for soil investigation and cleanup activities has concurred with site closure.

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

Colony Associates, Portola & West Frontage Roads, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County [Corey Walsh 805/542-4781]

Staff recommends closure of this underground storage tank case. On May 19, 2004 four temporary monitoring wells and three permanent wells were sampled. Groundwater analytical results indicate 240 micrograms per liter (µg/L) total petroleum hydrocarbons reported as gasoline (TPH-g), and 78 µg/L benzene in one temporary monitoring well. No other petroleum hydrocarbon constituents were detected above the reporting limit in this, or the other wells on-site.

The site is a vacant lot that contained a service station/garage from the mid-1950s until about 1985. Two USTs were reportedly removed in the late 1970s or early 1980s. In October 1989, approximately 900 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and subsequently disposed off-site. Historic groundwater results have detected hydrocarbons periodically in two of the three monitoring wells since 1989, when a maximum of 8,100 µg/L TPH-g, and 4,900 µg/L benzene were detected. Groundwater concentrations have since indicated a decreasing trend, although seasonal fluctuation in hydrocarbon concentrations has been detected in one well above cleanup goals. Groundwater monitoring has not detected contamination in any of the three permanent wells since March 2000, when analysis from one well detected 240 µg/L TPH-g, and 91 µg/L benzene. In order to evaluate the extent of potential residual soil contamination, four exploratory borings were drilled in May 2004, and temporary wells were sampled. Soil sample results did not detect any residual soil contamination, although one grab groundwater sample detected 240 µg/L TPH-g, and 78 µg/L benzene. Although one temporary sample identified an elevated benzene concentration, 78 µg/L, all surrounding permanent wells are non-detect for benzene. (May 2004)

Depth to groundwater has been observed from approximately 5 to 12 feet below ground surface (bgs), and the groundwater flow direction is generally to the northeast at an approximate gradient of 0.01 ft/ft. Current groundwater gauging data indicate that the depth to groundwater ranges between 9.8 and 10.9 feet bgs.

The nearest water supply well owned by Atascadero Mutual Water Company, Well No. 2A, is approximately one and one half miles northeast of the site. The residual petroleum hydrocarbons remaining are unlikely to impact this well considering the well construction, distance to well, and chemical characteristics of contaminant.

The site lies within the Atascadero Hydrologic Subarea (3-9.81) of the Salinas Hydrologic Unit, which the "Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region" (Basin Plan) designates groundwater beneficial uses to be domestic and municipal supply, agricultural supply, and industrial supply. Therefore, the groundwater cleanup goal for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) is 1 mg/L, benzene 1 µg/L, and MTBE 5 µg/L. The TPH and MTBE cleanup goals have been established based on taste and odor thresholds, not health risks.

The recommendation for closure is based on the following: (1) majority of contaminant mass has been removed through soil excavation, (2) remaining groundwater pollution above cleanup goals is limited in extent, (3) benzene is the only remaining constituent above cleanup goal, (4) observed decreasing concentration trends suggest the plume will continue to attenuate and meet groundwater cleanup goals, and (5) closure is

consistent with Section III.G. of State 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.

The responsible party and property owner are aware of the recommended case closure as required by the Health and Safety Code. In addition, San Luis Obispo County Division of Environmental Health as the lead agency for soil investigation and cleanup activities has concurred with site closure.

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

ATTACHMENTS

1 WDRs Order No. 97-10-DWQ
2. Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program 97-10-DWQ

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