

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Prepared on December 30, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 18

SUBJECT: Spills, Leaks, Investigation, and Cleanup Cases

KEY INFORMATION

Location: Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners, 272-A Mount Hermon Road, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County

Type of Discharge: Unauthorized Release of Tetrachloroethene (PCE)

Existing Orders: Cleanup or Abatement Order (CAO) No. RB3-2005-0081

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-134 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG993002
General Permit for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters

Monitoring and Reporting Program No. RB3-2005-0086 General NPDES Permit No. CAG993002 for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters

Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. RB3-2005-0082

This Action: Status Report Only

DISCUSSION

Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners, 272-A Mount Herman Road, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County
[Karyn Steckling 805/542-4642]

New information is shown in italics. For additional background information please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's May 13, 2005 staff report, May 13, 2005 supplemental sheet, and September 9, 2005 staff report.

Water Board staff provides regulatory oversight of the Scotts Valley Dry Cleaners (Dry Cleaners) in Santa Cruz County, one of many high priority Spills, Leaks, Investigation, and Cleanup cases in the region.

Background

The Dry Cleaners started site remediation of dry cleaning solvent discharges in 1996. The Dry Cleaners initially performed excavation (trenching) and vapor extraction in the source area. In March 1998, Water Board staff required the Dry Cleaners to submit a

corrective action plan. Since 1998, several remediation pilot tests/interim remedial actions were conducted, including air sparging, aquifer pump testing, and injection of hydrogen releasing compounds and cheese whey. The Dry Cleaners revised the corrective action plan several times based on pilot test results.

The Dry Cleaners implemented high vacuum, dual-phase extraction in March 2004 for plume containment, while they continued to evaluate other remedial alternatives for plume control. In July 2004, the Dry Cleaners submitted a revised Interim Remedial Action Plan proposing installation of three monitoring and groundwater extraction wells downgradient of MW-9, and a permanent groundwater extraction and treatment system.

The Water Board permitted the treated groundwater discharge from the proposed system under the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Discharge of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters on May 5, 2005. The pump and treat system was fully operational by August 10, 2005.

On May 25, 2005 the Water Board issued Cleanup or Abatement Order No. R3-2005-0081 (CAO) and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2005-0082 to responsible parties. The Dry Cleaners have met the date-specific requirements of CAO No. R3-2005-0081. The installation of additional wells and submission of a Revised Corrective Action Plan following plume containment are progressing.

As required by the CAO, the Water Board received the Dry Cleaners' work plan for well installation before the July 31, 2005 deadline. This work plan proposed installing two shallow wells rather than deep-zone monitoring wells. Water Board staff responded in a letter requiring installation of additional deep-zone monitoring wells in addition to or instead of the two shallow monitoring wells. The Dry Cleaners submitted a request to delay installation of deep-zone monitoring wells six months to determine whether or not they were necessary. Water Board Staff responded in a letter dated October 19, 2005, requiring a deep-zone well installation work plan by November 30, 2005, unless the responsible parties can demonstrate that they are financially unable to do so.

Recent Progress

Water Board staff received a work plan from the Dry Cleaner's consultant, SECOR International (Secor), for deep-well installations on November 30, 2005. The Scotts Valley Water District submitted a technical memorandum commenting on Secor's work plan from their consultant ETIC Engineering on December 29, 2005. Water Board staff is currently reviewing both the work plan and technical memorandum, discussing the proposed work with stakeholders, and developing a response

letter. A map indicating the proposed well locations is shown as Attachment 1. The Dry Cleaners will also be required to sample the Valley Gardens Golf Course Well when they sample the proposed deep-zone monitoring wells.

As shown on Attachment 2, in November 2005, MW-9 contained tetrachloroethene (PCE) at 680 parts per billion (ppb). MW-13B contained 2.1 ppb PCE. Seven of the wells sampled during the November quarterly monitoring event exhibited a decrease in PCE concentration compared to the last sample taken. MW-15 contained 510 ppb PCE, which is the lowest concentration detected since the well was installed in 2002. Five wells exhibited an increase in PCE concentration and two wells did not contain detectable levels of PCE. Concentrations in MW-2 and MW-18 are the highest concentrations detected since 1999 and 2004 respectively. The varying PCE concentration distribution suggests that the remediation system is effectively removing and mobilizing contamination.

The pump and treat system has extracted and treated over 70,356 gallons of impacted groundwater since interim remediation began in January 2005. The consultant estimates the system has removed over 0.5 pounds of PCE from the groundwater.

Water District

The Scotts Valley Water District continues to sample its Municipal Well No. 10 on a weekly basis; no contaminants have been detected above the reporting limit. Well 10 is scheduled to go off-line in the middle of February, and then is expected to be off-line until the spring/summer water demand starts.

Cleanup, Looking Forward

After plume containment is demonstrated, the Dry Cleaners are required to revise their corrective action plan to clean up source area contamination. Water Board staff will continue to coordinate meetings with stakeholders to increase communication and coordinate cleanup efforts.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Deep Monitoring Well
Location Map
2. November 2005 PCE Concentration Site
Map