



**Palos Verdes Landfill
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION UPDATE**

Fact Sheet #3

February 1991

INTRODUCTION

This is the third in a series of fact sheets designed to keep you updated on the investigation of hazardous waste contamination resulting from the Palos Verdes Landfill (PVLf). This fact sheet will outline specific on-going aspects of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and the activities expected to take place during the upcoming months. The PVLf is located between Rolling Hills Road, Palos Verdes Drive North, Hawthorne Boulevard and extends to include Ernie Howlett Park.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The Remedial Investigation (RI) is designed to identify any potential contamination from the PVLf. The RI is being performed by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts), and their contractors, under the oversight of the California Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS has recently received the first field report on the PVLf Phase I and II drilling activities which were completed in October 1990. Once reviewed and approved by DHS, the report will be made available for public review.

The field report is not the final RI report on PVLf. The purpose of the field report is to summarize the data generated during the drilling activities completed this past summer. Specifically, the requested field report will provide details on: site geology and hydrogeology; monitoring well locations, design and construction; and other information obtained during the Phase I and II activities.

Phases I and II are part of the Hydrogeologic Characterization Plan (HCP). During Phase I and II of the HCP, exploratory borings were

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 1989 a PVLf Community Relations Plan was developed through community interviews. Its objective is to ensure that the public has access to information about this site and to encourage public involvement in the decision-making process. This fact sheet and future community meetings are a product of that plan.

To inform you on the field report and various aspects of the Remedial Investigation, a community meeting is tentatively scheduled for April. In order for DHS to stay abreast of your issues, we encourage you to bring your concerns and questions to this meeting. Residents and other interested parties will receive written notification of the meeting at a later date.

drilled and monitoring wells were installed. In addition, surface water collection, air monitoring, and ground water monitoring were initiated. These activities were taken to gather information for the final RI report. The final RI report is due to DHS in 1992.

UPDATES

Groundwater Sampling

Thirteen groundwater monitoring wells and three lysimeters (small devices of varying depths designed to measure soil liquids) were installed during the Phase I and II drilling activities. Groundwater monitoring was initiated in December 1990.

Groundwater analysis will be available for public review the first week of March 1991.

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Since the mid-1980's, groundwater contamination has been known to exist in the northern corner of the main PVLFF. A barrier system was designed and installed to contain and remove the contaminated groundwater.

Air Sampling

On-site surface gas, landfill gas, and ambient air monitoring was initiated in August 1990 and will continue for twelve months. This monitoring will help identify whether any landfill contaminants are being emitted into the air through the top of the landfill. Additional air monitoring may be required depending on the sampling results.

Sampling Plan for Dioxins and Radioactivity

In December 1990, with the approval of DHS and at the request of community members, the Districts began dioxin and radioactivity sampling. Down gradient from PVLFF, samples were collected from monitoring wells and an onsite sump. Monitoring wells up gradient from the landfill were also sampled. Sampling results are pending.

There are no historic disposal records for radioactive wastes or dioxins. Only one of the Districts' permits, issued by Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1976, prohibited the disposal of radioactive wastes. At that time low level radioactive wastes were not strictly regulated and therefore may have been disposed of in landfills. High level radioactive wastes have always been strictly regulated and would not have been disposed of in a landfill.

In 1986, the Districts sampled all of the wells at the PVLFF for gross alpha and gross beta radioactivity. Although some radioactivity was detected, it was determined that the source was Potassium 40, a naturally occurring radio-nuclide. In addition to this past testing, soil samples collected during the RI were scanned for radioactivity.

Moccasin Lane

Site Description and History

- BKK Corporation landfill operated from 1952 to 1957
- The Districts landfill operations began in 1957 and ended in 1980.
- The Districts accepted hazardous waste between 1964 and 1980. Hazardous waste was deposited in the main section of the site. Waste disposal methods included the use of injection wells, liquid disposal pits, and drum burial.
- A Gas-to-Energy facility and back-up flare stations were completed by the Districts in 1988.
- DHS approved the remedial investigation and feasibility study workplans for PVLFF in February 1990.

In September 1990, DHS, the Districts, City of Rolling Hills Estates, Air Quality Management District and Los Angeles County Department of Health met with residents of Moccasin Lane. Moccasin Lane is located in Rolling Hills Estates. The meeting was called by DHS at the request of residents who expressed concern over backyard settlement and their potential exposure to landfill gases. The meeting was attended by nine residents, all of whom expressed their concerns to the Districts. Mr. John Gullede of the Districts reaffirmed the Districts' existing proposal to install, operate and maintain a gas collection system at the Districts' expense. In addition, other potential options were explored. No agreements were reached during the meeting. However, the homeowners planned to hold a separate meeting to evaluate their options and develop a plan of action.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

January -February 1991

The Districts submitted the draft field report to DHS on January 31, 1990. The requested report is to summarize the soil boring analysis, initial groundwater samples, and the methods used to install the monitoring wells and borings.

In addition, DHS has requested that the Districts submit a sampling and analysis plan to investigate for potential sumps down gradient from PVLf. This work plan is due to DHS by February 15.

DHS will be reviewing the draft field report. After completing this review, DHS will submit their comments to the Districts whereupon the Districts will incorporate DHS comments and finalize the field report.

March 1991

DHS will make available for public review the groundwater analysis from Phase I and II. The Districts will also make this information available for public review.

DHS is scheduling an interagency briefing for the various agencies associated with the PVLf investigation. The meeting is designed to serve as a unifying source of information for the purpose of expediting communication and investigation activities. Invited participants include: elected local and state officials, Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Districts, Southcoast Air Quality

Management District, city planning departments, specific interest groups, and representatives from homeowner's associations.

April 1991

DHS will hold a community meeting to:

- report the results in the Phase I and II fieldwork summary
- report on the interagency briefing
- outline specific future activities, including an investigation of the lake bottom liner at the South Coast Botanic Garden and the storm drain running through the subsurface barrier at the northern corner of the main site
- discuss interested parties concerns

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Districts will be developing a feasibility study to evaluate potential remedial options for site cleanup. Additional field studies may be required to fill in data gaps identified in the draft Remedial Investigation Report.

MAILING COUPON

If you have any comments concerning the RI/FS project, or would like to be placed on the DHS mailing list, please fill out the information below and mail it to: Kristin Stultz, Public Participation Specialist, California Department of Health Services, Toxic Substances Control Program, 245 W. Broadway, Suite 350, Long Beach, CA 90802.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

COMMENT: _____

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

In order to encourage involvement and better inform citizens about hazardous waste activities in their communities, DHS has established the Community Technical Assistance Contract (CTAC) grant program. Through this program, grants of up to \$25,000 in the form of services may be awarded to qualifying community groups. This fiscal year a total of \$147,000 has been budgeted for this program. Once a grant is awarded, the community group chooses a technical expert from a California university. This "Technical Advisor" then helps the group interpret reports and other information related to a site cleanup or permit application affecting the community. For further information, please contact Kristin Stultz, Public Participation Specialist, (213)590-4991.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about the site history, current investigation, project schedule and community concerns can be found in two prior fact sheets. To receive copies of these fact sheets, please contact DHS at the numbers listed below or return the enclosed mailing list coupon and indicate that you would like to receive the prior fact sheets.

DHS Contacts: If at any time during the remedial investigation you have questions or comments, please contact our office.

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Information Repositories: All site workplans, the Community Relations Plan and other reports can be reviewed at the reference desks of the following libraries.

Peninsula Center Library
650 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA
90274
(213)377-9584

Torrance Civic Center
Library
3301 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
(213)618-5959

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