

FACT SHEET

No. 38

February 2020

FORMER DFSP NORWALK

TANK FARM CLEANUP PROGRESS UPDATE

Environmental cleanup of soil and groundwater continues at the 50-acre former Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Norwalk, also known as the Former Tank Farm, located at 15306 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk California (the site). Note that in 2018, the eastern 15-acre portion of the property was conveyed to the City of Norwalk for future use as park land. The former operators of the Tank Farm (the Defense Logistics Agency – DLA and KinderMorgan Energy Partners – KMPE) remain responsible for cleaning the soil and groundwater throughout the 50-acre Site.

The primary chemicals of concern at the site include petroleum hydrocarbons (fuel products), benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA), and 1,2 dichloroethane (1,2-DCA). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is the state regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup of the site. The DLA and KMPE are committed to continuing the environmental cleanup until site closure is granted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board (Regional Board).

Completion of Shallow Soil Remediation – Former Tank Farm

Following approval from the Regional Board, excavation and on-site treatment of approximately 100,000 tons of contaminated soil from approximately 40 excavation areas began in March 2015 and was completed in April 2017. All areas of contaminated shallow soil were remediated to a depth of 10 feet, and deeper in some areas. Confirmation samples of soil and soil gas samples were collected, analyzed at a California-certified testing laboratory, and the results compared to agency established cleanup goals to demonstrate that cleanup goals had been reached.

Status of Eastern 15-acres - Future Park Land

As previously reported, all shallow soil cleanup activities and reports were completed for the future park area and the Regional Board issued a conditional “No Further Action” (NFA) determination for the eastern 15 acres on April 19, 2018. This NFA includes covenants and restrictions that run with the land, limiting use of the parcel for recreational and/or commercial/industrial land applications. The City of Norwalk currently owns this land, and it is part of the City’s Holifield Park extension project.

DLA continues remediation to address deeper soil and groundwater beneath the current and future park area. These on-going remediation efforts will not affect the current or future safe use of the future park land, or future development.

Western 35 Acres

In January 2018, a report detailing the remediation of shallow soil within DLA’s former operational area that comprises the western 35 acres of the site was submitted for regulatory review. The results of the soil sampling and soil gas surveys confirmed that:

- Shallow soil remediation has been effective,
- With appropriate land-use controls the site is suitable for redevelopment as a park, and
- The site is suitable for commercial or industrial use.

On December 13, 2018, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) responded to the request for closure for shallow soil in the western portion of the former tank farm part of the site. The OEHHA requested additional information and risk evaluation. Additional soil gas samples were collected by DLA and Kinder Morgan. Responses to the OEHHA comments are currently in preparation and are not expected to result in the need for additional remediation of the shallow soil beneath the former tank farm area.

Central and Northeastern Areas Update

Cleanup operations of deeper soil and groundwater by DLA at the Former Tank Farm include a total-fluids extraction (TFE) system to recover liquid fuel present on the groundwater surface, a groundwater extraction (GWE) and treatment system to clean the underlying groundwater, a biosparge system to enhance natural biologic cleaning of the soil and groundwater, and soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems to remove and treat fuel vapors from the soil.

In 2017 to 2019, DLA augmented the cleanup effort through the installation of 118 additional wells to be used either for fuel removal, water pumping, vapor extraction, or air sparging within the former tank farm and truck rack areas of the site. SVE operations have been expanded by the increasing the capacity of vapor treatment equipment, including the installation of a state-of-the-art thermal oxidizer equipped with barriers to address noise concerns raised by local residents.

During the spring of 2019, DLA replaced a horizontal well (HW-3, which became unserviceable) with two new horizontal wells which were connected to the extraction system in 2019 to further enhance the remediation of the deeper soils beneath the former tank farm. Groundwater extraction continued to remove contaminated groundwater for treatment; the treated water is now discharged to the Los Angeles County sanitation sewer.

During 2020, DLA plans to continue to recovery and treatment of contaminated groundwater, to maximize the recovery of fuel products, to operate the vapor extraction and treatment systems, and to optimize the operation of the air sparge wells.

The cleanup systems operated at the site were successful in removing soil and groundwater contamination from beneath the site. Since the cleanup began in 1996, the GWE system has extracted and treated nearly 79.8 million gallons of groundwater; the SVE system has removed over 3.1 million pounds of equivalent mass of hydrocarbons (which equals approximately 480,000 gallons of fuel) and nearly 68,200 gallons of fuel were recovered and sent off-site to a recycling facility. The cleanup efforts completed at the Site have resulted in a significant improvement to the quality of the groundwater with a very large percentage of wells containing no detectable concentrations of contamination!

South-Central and Southeastern Areas Update

KMEP has pipelines along the property’s southern and eastern borders that convey refined petroleum fuels including gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. KMEP cleanup systems consist of TFE, GWE, and SVE in the south-central and southeastern areas. Since 1995, the SVE system has removed approximately 3,500,000



Horizontal Remediation Wells Drilling

pounds equivalent mass of hydrocarbons (which equals approximately 540,000 gallons of fuel), and the TFE/GWE system has extracted and treated 107.7 million gallons of groundwater from the south-central, southeastern, and western areas. The cleanup systems were effective at containing and controlling the migration of chemicals in groundwater and soil vapor as well as removing hydrocarbon mass; however, performance data indicates that continued operation of the existing SVE and TFE systems alone will not achieve the project remediation objectives, and therefore other technologies were evaluated. Horizontal biosparge technology, a form of air sparging, coupled with SVE was selected as the alternate interim remedy for achieving project objectives.

An initial horizontal biosparge system was installed in the south-central area in 2015. The system includes an 850-foot-long horizontal biosparge well set at 45 feet below ground surface (bgs) connected to an above-ground air compressor system. At the end of 2017, a 733-foot-long, east-west oriented horizontal biosparge well set at 45 feet bgs was installed in the southeastern corner of the site, where the screen section centered in the southeastern area hydrocarbon plume. Additional air sparging equipment for operating the new biosparge well was installed at the end of 2018. At the end of 2019, two additional horizontal remediation wells were installed to treat the offsite plume area, including another biosparge well (770 feet long, set at 45 feet bgs) and a SVE well (742 feet long, set at 21 feet bgs) to capture vapors and reduce the risk of soil vapors generated during biosparging from impacting the residential area. These wells are “stacked” (i.e., vertically staggered), meaning that they follow the same trajectory, but the biosparge well is set at 40 feet bgs and the SVE well is set at 21 feet bgs, offset horizontally from one another by approximately 10 feet. The south-central biosparge system is currently operative, and it is expected that the southeastern biosparge system and offsite biosparge system will be operative in early 2020 and mid-2020, respectively.

In addition to expanding the biosparge system, KMEP recently completed upgrades to the SVE system in the southeastern area of the site. Specifically, in early 2019, three new SVE wells were installed, and at the end of 2019, three existing groundwater monitoring wells were converted to SVE wells and connected to the SVE treatment system. It’s expected that the expanded SVE system will be operative in early 2020, to coincide with startup of the new southeastern biosparge well. The objective of these enhancements is to create a soil vapor capture zone that is larger than the biosparge zone of influence, thus reducing the risk of soil vapors generated during biosparging from migrating off-site and impacting the residential area.

As an additional safeguard, several new soil vapor monitoring probes were installed in the residential area to the south. As part of the system start-up process, in early 2020 samples from soil vapor probes and ambient air samples will be collected to evaluate system performance and monitor potential vapor migration. Monitoring data will allow for operating parameters to be adjusted as needed.

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The Next Meeting Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex, Hargitt Room (13000 Clarkdale Avenue).** The latest cleanup actions and monitoring results will be discussed. The public is encouraged to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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