

FACT SHEET

March 2001



Groundwater Extraction At The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Crows Landing Flight Facility [Former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing]

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information to the public about the extraction of contaminated groundwater at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility (the Facility) that was formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF), Crows Landing) in Stanislaus County, California. The Facility is located approximately 80 miles southeast of San Francisco, between the towns of Patterson and Crows Landing. The contaminated groundwater is located at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 17 – the Demolished Hangar Area - which includes the groundwater plume known as the Administration Area Plume (the Plume). The Plume contains petroleum hydrocarbons and solvents.

The Navy identified solvents in the groundwater near a former dry well during sampling activities that were conducted in July 2000, and the Navy published an Action Memorandum describing the time-critical removal actions for the extraction of contaminated groundwater in November 2000. The groundwater extraction activities are intended as interim measures that will be followed by a final remedy. The Action Memorandum and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Administrative Record for the groundwater extraction activities were made available for public inspection at the Information Repository at the Stanislaus County Library, Patterson Branch during December 2000 and January 2001. A public

notice announcing the availability of the documents was issued on 6 December 2000.

Groundwater extraction activities began in December 2000, and approximately 25,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater have been extracted as of March 2001. Extracted groundwater is transported to a treatment facility in Vernon, California. During late February and early March 2001, the extraction activities resulted in the removal of approximately one to two pounds of solvents and petroleum hydrocarbons per week. The Navy originally estimated a groundwater extraction rate of 1 to 3 gallons per minute, however, the optimum extraction rate is approximately 0.5 gallon per minute. This fact sheet provides notification that the extraction activities will extend for a longer time period, until early summer 2001, or until approximately 50,000 gallons have been removed. A summary report, to be published following the completion of fieldwork, will identify the amount of contamination that was removed from the groundwater. The summary report will be made available for inspection in the Information Repository.

Historical Background

The former NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in May 1943 and has served primarily as an auxiliary airfield for operations from Naval Air Station, Moffett Field. The Facility also provided service to other Navy facilities in the general area and other federal and state agencies. The Navy closed the Facility in 1994 in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. Operation and ownership of the facility were transferred to NASA on July 1, 1994.

The Navy is responsible for the restoration of contaminated sites that were the result of historical Navy operations at the Facility, and the Navy is authorized to take response actions under CERCLA. The Navy is the lead agency for the implementation of the removal actions for the extraction of contaminated groundwater. Regulatory oversight is provided by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Groundwater Extraction Activities

The groundwater extraction activities are being conducted near a former dry well in the southern section of the Administration Area Plume. The highest concentrations of contaminants including petroleum hydrocarbons, ethylene dibromide (EDB), acetone, 2-butanone (methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)), 4-methyl 2-pentanone (methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK)), and benzene have been identified in this area. Acetone concentrations exceeding 100,000 parts per billion and MEK concentrations exceeding 20,000 parts per billion have been identified.

The removal of contaminated groundwater will reduce the potential for spreading of the contaminants to a larger area while the final remedy is developed. The extraction activities also provide information pertaining to aquifer characteristics, and this information is being used by the Navy in the development and evaluation of alternatives for the final remedy.

Future Activities

The Navy proposes to continue groundwater extraction activities at the area of highest contaminant concentrations through early summer 2001.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We encourage you to comment on the groundwater extraction activities. Comments may be sent to Ms. Marianna Potacka, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information pertaining to the groundwater extraction activities, please contact
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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Administrative Record documents pertaining to the groundwater extraction activities at the Facility are available at the Information Repository at the Stanislaus County Library, Patterson Branch in Patterson. The Information Repository also includes an index of all documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record. Remedial investigation reports, underground storage tank reports, and other documentation pertaining to the Navy's environmental restoration program are maintained in the CERCLA Administrative Record at Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego. For assistance with the CERCLA Administrative Record or requests for copies of documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record, please contact the records manager, Ms. Diane Silva, at (619) 532-3676.

MAILING LABEL

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