

The JCP EnviroCheck™ Disclosure Report

Property Address: 49 Minerva St, San Francisco, San Francisco County, CA APN: 7094 047

Report Number: 2005012800004

Date: 1/28/2005

Determination Summary:

The sites disclosed on this report have been identified from certain government lists and are within one-half mile of the subject property. Please refer to the remaining sections of this report for individual site summaries and additional information. Methods and limitations are at the end of the report.

The subject property:

IS IS NOT within 1/4 mile of 2 known leaking underground storage tank site(s).

IS IS NOT within 1/2 mile of a site(s) other than a leaking underground storage tank.


Some official lists may include sites that have been closed or otherwise cleaned up, or are simply being monitored or regulated with no known contamination.

The hazard 'sites' included in this report are 'POINT' SOURCES ONLY, such as a leaking underground tank on a specific property. This report does NOT address 'AREAS' of potential environmental hazard, such as a contamination Study Area or a groundwater plume. In addition, any point source that lies beyond the standard 1/4 and 1/2-mile radius distances considered here will not be reflected in this report—even if it is known to be the origin of a larger contaminated area. Point sources are included in this report as of the time they are identified in the government lists consulted by JCP Geologists.

JCP Geologists prepared this report. Real estate brokers, agents and contractual parties ordering this report are covered by our Professional Liability Insurance Policy for damages to the extent they are caused by our negligent acts, errors or omissions in the performance of our services and subject to the limitations of this report.

Determined by

JCP Geologists



Greg Rufe
President



I have read this JCP EnviroCheck Report prior to signing and have received a copy of this report.

Signature of Transferor (Seller) _____ Date _____

Signature of Transferor (Seller) _____ Date _____

Signature of Transferee (Buyer) _____ Date _____

Signature of Transferee (Buyer) _____ Date _____

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HOW THIS REPORT IS ORGANIZED

This report identifies sites in the vicinity of the subject property that have been identified to have contamination associated with them either now or in the past as well as sites that are simply being regulated by a government agency.

The sites are identified by address. The "name" is generally the original place of business responsible for contamination, or the place of the business that is currently being monitored for regulatory compliance. Most of the sites remain in use and may have already been re-developed. Today, the site may be vacant or accommodate a different business. The types and amount of information can vary on the lists, therefore, the summaries may have varying levels of detail. The report is divided into two parts:

- Sites within 1/4 mile with a known leaking underground storage tank.
- Sites within 1/2 mile other than a leaking underground storage tank.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

There is no single government agency that handles information for all contaminated sites. Multiple agencies are responsible for organizing clean-up efforts at different types of sites. Each generally maintains files on the sites they oversee with information on the type and extent of contamination, clean-up efforts etc. There is also the possibility that the file may have no additional information. For general information, refer to the discussions in this report. If your question isn't answered there, call us here at JCP. We will try and answer them for you.

In each site summary, there is the name and telephone number of the agency overseeing that site. Agencies are limited to answering general questions. **NOTE!** Additional information on a site may be limited and the government agency you contact will not venture opinions.

1. National Priorities Sites (NPL sites - commonly called "Superfund" or "CERCLIS" Sites) -

Contact the Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Hotline at **(800) 424-9346** to speak with a Superfund consultant to request information from the individual Site Fact Sheet. This help-line can also provide you with the phone number of the local Community Relations Coordinator for the site in question and the location of the local information repository for that site. Information is available on line at: www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/ca.htm.

2. Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites (LUSTIS) -

Leaking fuel tanks are the most widespread source of contamination. **For general questions, telephone the State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Desk at (916) 341-5740 or (916) 341-5700.** Information on individual sites is available on line at www.swrcb.ca.gov

3. California Integrated Waste Management Board's SWIS List -

The "Solid Waste Information System" is a list of landfills, composting, transformation, disposal and waste tire site facilities in California. These sites are simply regulated facilities and are not classified as being "contaminated" by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Contact the California Integrated Waste Management Board's "Solid Waste Information Center" at (916) 341 6320 and ask for the Associate Waste Management Specialist. They should be able to answer some limited general questions. Further information is available on line at www.ciwmb.CA.Gov/Swis/search.asp#DOWNLOAD.

4. Spills, Leaks, Investigation and Cleanup list (SLIC) -

Contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board in your area for additional site information. A directory of the Regional Boards is available on line at www.swrcb.ca.gov/regions.html. JCP Geologists uses all publicly available SLIC lists. Currently, lists from the San Francisco Bay Region, Los Angeles Region, Central Valley Region, and the Santa Ana Region are available.

5. California Active Annual Workplan list (AWP) -

Contact the State Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control at: (916) 323-3400

How to Obtain Generalized Environmental Information

Brochures published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are a good source of general information. County health departments may have a health and safety officer or a "haz-mat" (hazardous materials) specialist that can answer general questions also. The telephone number for your local Department of Health should be listed in the telephone book.

Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Hotline: **(800) 426-4791**

Federal Environmental Protection Agency Public Information Office: **(408) 299-6930**

California Environmental Protection Agency: **(916) 445-3846**

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METHODS AND LIMITATIONS

As in all studies and reports, there are limitations. This section details the limitations of the data and methods that JCP is aware of at this time. Note that the level of information will vary between contaminated sites and certain information may not be available for all sites. Additional information probably exists that is not included in the sources used to create this report. Research into other sources beyond those identified in this section is beyond the scope of this report. Interested parties are directed to investigate other sources if additional information is desired.

JCP Geologists, Inc. uses certain publicly available and official lists that inventory contaminated and regulated sites to prepare this report. The lists used in this report include the National Priorities List (NPL), the California Active Annual Work Plan list (AWP), the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System (LUSTIS), certain regional water quality control board's Spills, Leaks, Investigations and Cleanup list (SLIC), and the Solid Waste Information System (SWIS). The site lists used may contain errors or omissions made by the official agencies responsible for maintaining these lists. JCP Geologists, Inc. will not be liable for any such errors. The lists used in this report are up-dated at various intervals with some being up-dated on an irregular basis. Update schedules are determined by the agency responsible for maintaining the list and are subject to change without notice. JCP Geologists maintains an up-date schedule and will make every reasonable effort to use up-dated information. The complexities of obtaining and adapting the data into a usable format for writing this report necessitates a lag time. All parties should be aware that the lists are subject to change at any time. Therefore, the sites identified for a property can change as the lists do. JCP is not responsible for advising parties of any changes that may occur after the date of this report. This report is for use in the single transaction process for which it was issued. Due to changing information, laws and contractual parties, this report cannot be relied upon for other properties or future transactions of the subject property. JCP shall not be liable to anyone who may claim any right through his relationship with the agent except when acts or omissions are due to willful misconduct or negligence by JCP.

We locate the subject property as well as listed sites using a geographic information system. Locations cannot be field checked. The accuracy of geographic locations will reflect any errors in the address provided and JCP will not be liable for such errors. Some sites from the lists could not be located by the methods used in preparing this report. In these cases, the sites could not be included as being "within" or "not within" the search radius around the subject property.

JCP Geologists Inc. does not make any representations as to the accuracy, validity or completeness of any of these lists nor to the significance or extent of the contamination on any of the sites identified on the lists. We do not make any representations as to the health hazards to humans or animals that may be associated with any of the substances that may exist at the sites disclosed in this report or how they may or may not affect the subject property. Any discussions on environmental issues are general in nature and for background information only. This report does not address the drinking water sources for the subject property.

JCP Geologists did not perform a visual examination of the subject property or any of the sites identified in this report. This report does not address hazardous substances, if any, that may exist on the subject property unless the property is on one of the lists used. This report is not a substitute for an on-site environmental assessment.

NOTE: This is a limited scope report designed for residential property transactions. Additional contaminated sites may exist that are not listed on the sources used in this report. If any party to this transaction has any actual knowledge of contamination at the subject property, that information must be disclosed in addition to this report. We recommend that if any party to this transaction has concerns, they contact the agency noted for additional information and appropriate experts as necessary.

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SITES LISTED ON A LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK LIST

All of the sites in this section are listed on the State's Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System (LUSTIS) and have been identified to have had a leaking storage tank. Many of these sites have been cleaned up, and this is noted below if it is the case. Leaking underground fuel tanks are the most common type of contamination. Fuel tank leaks are often less extensive than other types of contamination releases and usually do not extend beyond the property on which the tank is located. **NOTE!** The LUSTIS list identifies the type of resource (soil, groundwater, aquifer, etc.) that is or was affected by the contamination. For some listed sites, the resource description may appear to contradict information cited for "cleanup activity status". Please contact the State Water Resources Control Board for an explanation of any such discrepancy.

The following sites are on the Leaking Underground Storage Tank List:

Site 1

FORMER GAS STATION/SCARBOROUGH
101 Farallones St
San Francisco, CA 94112-

Listed on:LUSTIS

Site Type:This site had or has a Leaking Underground Storage Tank

The Resource Affected by this site:S- Soils have been impacted

Status:9- This site has been closed by the agencies overseeing clean-up. No further clean-up is deemed necessary at this site.

Type of Contamination: Hydrocarbons, i.e. fuels, oils, or kerosene

Contact for more information: State Water Resources Control Board, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System, (916) 341-5740 or (916) 341-5700

Site 2

ANDERSON ROOFING & SHEET METAL
2940 San Jose Av
San Francisco, CA 94112

Listed on:LUSTIS

Site Type:This site had or has a Leaking Underground Storage Tank

The Resource Affected by this site:S- Soils have been impacted

Status:9- This site has been closed by the agencies overseeing clean-up. No further clean-up is deemed necessary at this site.

Type of Contamination: Hydrocarbons, i.e. fuels, oils, or kerosene

Contact for more information: State Water Resources Control Board, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System, (916) 341-5740 or (916) 341-5700

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SITES WITHIN ½ MILE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY OTHER THAN A LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

The following sites are regulated by an agency or have been listed by a state or federal agency as being contaminated either currently or in the past. Many of these sites have been cleaned-up; and this will be noted if it is the case. NOTE: sites listed on SWIS are not considered contaminated; they are simply monitored for compliance with regulatory procedures.

No other types of hazardous substance contaminated sites were found within one-half mile of the property on the lists used to prepare this report.

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Sites Missing Key Location Information

N/P = Not Provided on list used.

N/A = Not Applicable - Sites listed as containing, using or storing hazardous substances, no cleanup status provided.

Active = Site undergoing clean-up or investigation.

Closed = Clean-up completed.

A limited number of listed sites contain address information that is inaccurate, incorrect, or is missing key information necessary to locate the site with confidence using the geocoding methods used in this report. These sites are reported in the generalized list below for your review based on their possible existence in proximity to the subject site. Sites in this section are not necessarily within a one mile search radius of the subject property. We are providing this list for general information only.

Site Name	Address	Status	Database
ARCO # 00319	5101 Mission St, San Francisco	Active	LUSTIS

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EnviroCheck™ Discussion Section

The subject of hazardous waste can be an emotional and uncertain topic. You have taken an important step by obtaining this report to help become informed on environmental issues. There are a number of important factors to consider when assessing environmental issues. Risk is only one factor. Others include public values and perceptions, economic constraints, perceived risk to health etc. Accurate and unbiased information is important. It provides a logical foundation for decisions that are often emotionally based on "perceived" rather than on actual risk.

This section includes discussions on certain topics to help you understand this report. The subject of contamination is broad and complex. These discussions are not intended to be an exhaustive study of environmental issues. In addition, many aspects of hazardous substance clean up and control change as state-of-the-art practice and legislation changes. For these reasons, the following information is of necessity generalized and may not apply to every site. This section is divided into the following:

- Part 1. What Are Hazardous Substances? Understanding the Risk in Perspective
- Part 2. Groundwater
- Part 3. Formation of Plumes: The Transport of Chemicals into Groundwater
- Part 4. Leaking Underground Fuel Tanks
- Part 5. What is a "Superfund" Site?
- Part 6. Drinking Water: Tap vs. Private Well

PART 1: WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES?

Chemicals in our environment are a controversial subject. This is because their effects on human health are often not well understood. Both the government and the public want clear standards that define when a substance is considered "hazardous." Unfortunately, it is not always easy to determine such a clear standard. Precise instruments allow us to detect a wide variety of substances even in very small concentrations. Sometimes these substances are only detectable in the parts per billion (ppb) or parts per trillion (ppt) ranges. In these cases, the concentrations are at or near the limit of our ability to even detect them.

If scientific study shows that a particular chemical is known or suspected to adversely affect our health, that substance could become listed as an official hazardous substance. The list of what "is" and "is not" a hazardous substance changes. With increased research, substances are added and, in some cases, removed.

The potential health implications make us question the presence of chemicals in our environment. It's important to understand that any risk associated with a substance is dependent on both the concentration of the chemical *and* the length of exposure time. Some scientists believe that a "threshold" level exists for many chemical concentrations below which there are no known or anticipated adverse health effects. This allows standard concentration limits of some chemicals to be established. These standards are called "Maximum Contaminant Levels" (MCL), and they are enforceable by the Environmental Protection Agency. If these levels are exceeded, the substance must be cleaned-up until it is at or below the MCL.

The term "hazardous substance" is used in this report as synonymous with "hazardous waste" and "toxic substance." In general, the terms refer to a material with potentially harmful affects. Once a particular substance is determined to be harmful, it may become regulated by one or more environmental laws. When this happens, it is termed "listed." Once a chemical is "listed," sites that have spilled or leaked the substance may be required to clean it up.

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Hazardous Substances in Perspective

As is true with *any* hazardous substance, the mere presence of it is not a threat to human health. In order to pose a health risk, that substance must come into physical contact with the body by eating, drinking, inhalation, or skin contact. It is the likelihood of physical exposure to a substance that must be carefully examined to determine an acceptable level of risk. Information on how contaminated sites can or *cannot* affect the property is vital in making decisions. Inaccurate perceptions could lead to making misinformed decisions. Two lines of logic to consider when analyzing risk are:

- We make daily decisions based on familiar and acceptable levels of risk because we feel the benefits outweigh the potential consequences. For instance, although we know driving freeways might be dangerous, we drive them anyway because convenience and speed makes this risk acceptable. Many risks we undertake everyday aren't considered hazardous simply because they are familiar.
- Everyday, we make decisions based on what is most important to accomplish first, second, etc. This is necessary because if all problems were assigned equal importance, nothing could be accomplished. Risk is commonly considered similarly or, in other words, as "relative risk." This consideration is based on deciding what "risk" has the worst or immediate adverse consequence and then address that risk first.

Often, decisions are not based on scientific analysis and hard data, but on perceived risk and public opinion. In the environmental arena, these two approaches go head to head. Public attention may be focused on certain environmental hazards based on a dramatic and well-publicized environmental problem. Unfortunately, this may lead to a diminished concern for other environmental issues that may pose more immediate concern. This line of thinking is not directed at undermining the significance of large-scale contamination, but is meant to direct attention to the "big picture."

Many studies indicate that things we do on a daily basis in our homes may expose us to a greater overall health risk than living next door to virtually any contaminated site. It's hard to imagine that many of the items we take for granted in our homes have higher concentrations of hazardous substances and expose us for greater amounts of time than just about anything we encounter in normal outdoor activities. This is where familiarity with items such as "dry-cleaned" clothes, many air fresheners, mothballs, paints or shoe polishes make the hazardous substances in such things acceptable. In certain cases, chemicals that are strictly regulated in industry are not regulated in homes. An example is methylene chloride, which the EPA found in about one-third of 1000 common household products in a 1987 study. Methylene chloride is regulated in factory emissions, but not within homes.

Understanding a variety of issues is important for making informed decisions. Evaluating risks accurately in order to avoid over- or under-reacting is a task best completed based on sound, accurate information.

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PART 2 GROUNDWATER

The water in lakes, rivers, and groundwater all together only account for about 0.6% of the total water on Earth. Of these, groundwater is the most important fresh water supply. About half of the United States depends on groundwater for their drinking water. An expanding population and economy has prompted a dramatic increase in the demand for water from groundwater supplies. Many thought such water was immune from contamination. However, as more incidents of groundwater pollution occur, public interest in protecting our groundwater has increased as well as legislative protection of this resource.

Although the technical aspects of groundwater and groundwater pollution are beyond the scope of this report, the basic concepts are easy to understand and can help in evaluating other information in this report.

How Groundwater Reservoirs Form

In order to understand the basic principles of groundwater, it is necessary to appreciate the "hydrologic cycle." This is the system by which nature circulates water. In short, water evaporates from the ocean and rises to form clouds. Water in the air condenses and eventually falls back to the earth in the form of rain, snow, sleet, hail etc. which then eventually flows back to the ocean.

We depend on precipitation that falls on land to replenish our fresh water supply. Precipitation can fall directly into water bodies, from run-off, or soak into the soil. Much is absorbed by plants or evaporates, but a portion seeps down into the groundwater. Technically, "groundwater" is water located in water-saturated zones below the surface. Water located in unsaturated zones is simply called "soil water."

Groundwater is primarily stored in "aquifers." Usually, aquifers consist of gravel, sand, clay or fractured rock. Groundwater is stored in the pores and cavities of sediments or in rock fractures. It does not occur as an underground "ocean" or "river" except perhaps in a rare cave-type environment. Aquifers may consist of one continuous "layer" or as several layers stacked-up like pancakes.

How Groundwater Moves

Groundwater is added to (recharged) by water seeping down through the ground and is released (discharged) when it intersects a surface body of water such as a lake or stream or when it is pumped out. The surface area below the ground where the soil or rock is water saturated is called the "water table." The water table is not fixed. It can move up and down as water is removed from or added to the aquifer.

In general, groundwater moves slowly. This is an important concept when considering groundwater contamination. The water can move as slowly as a few inches per year in clays. However, if the aquifer consists of loose sand and gravel, the groundwater can move hundreds of feet per year. Like water at the surface, groundwater moves with the gradient (i.e. downhill). However, groundwater can also move as a result of being under pressure. Pressurized water will move from high to low pressure areas. This works under the same principle as any material under pressure, such as fluid in an aerosol can.

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PART 3 FORMATION OF PLUMES

The Transport of Chemicals into Groundwater

Chemicals that are spilled or released into soil may dissolve in any water that is present. In some cases, the chemicals may be transported into groundwater by water slowly seeping downward. How fast this occurs and the details are complex, but water generally moves downward. Lateral movement is generally not significant until water reaches the water table. The contaminant concentration reaching groundwater is less than the concentration at the source because of dilution and breakdown that occur along the way.

As contaminants are slowly transported downward, they can chemically interact with other things in the water or soil. This can temporarily or permanently remove the contamination. Natural defense mechanisms such as biological degradation also act to naturally mitigate contamination to varying extents by removing or altering the contaminants. For instance, some bacteria that live naturally in soil and groundwater can metabolize many of the contaminants in gasoline.

Contaminants become “pollution” if they reach concentrations high enough to be judged harmful to humans or the environment. Groundwater standards are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies. Contamination can originate from a “point source” such as a leaking underground tank, or from a “non-point” source such as infiltration from agriculture (i.e. pesticides and fertilizers) or urban run-off (i.e. road salt or trace metals left on roads from tires and car emissions).

When contaminants enter the groundwater, they are slowly dispersed to form a diluted cloud or “plume.” Chemical reactions and biological breakdown can continue. Pumping, complex flow patterns, chemical and biological processes all affect the travel, size and shape of plumes. Some contaminants may be removed by a process called “adsorption.” Adsorption is the process by which a chemical adheres to grains in the soil. Although this does not remove the contaminant, it may immobilize it and help prevent it from spreading.

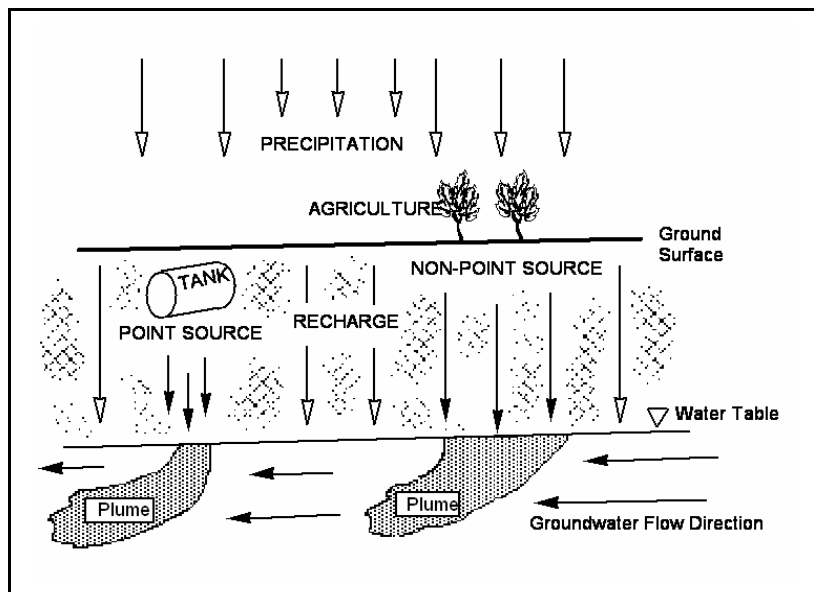


Figure 1. How a contaminant plume forms. A plume forms in the direction of groundwater flow.

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The size and extent of plumes are determined using “monitoring wells.” Such wells also help track clean-up efforts. Information from monitoring wells and other sources are used to determine appropriate mitigation recommendations. Clean-up methods can vary widely depending on local site conditions.

PART 4 LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

The most common type of contamination comes from leaking underground fuel tanks and piping systems. Underground tanks are common throughout California as well as throughout the United States. These tanks are predominantly used for storing fuel, although solvents used in high technology industries and other substances are stored in this manner also.

Why underground tanks? Many years ago, jurisdictions developed regulations with regards to storage tanks for the “esthetic” protection of growing cities as well as providing important fire safety measures. For these reasons, the majority of fuel tanks must be buried. Unfortunately, the state building codes that regulate underground fuel tank construction did not keep up with changing technology. The result was that industry used traditional methods in building underground tanks and pipes. Today, there are laws in place that ensure strict building codes are followed in new tank construction, as well as upgrades for all substandard underground tanks.

When an underground tank leaks, the soil and/or groundwater can become contaminated. How much fuel actually gets into the soil depends on how big the leak is and how long the leak continues. Experience shows that leaking fuel “seeps” into the ground at a generally slow rate and usually does not travel very far. “Seeping” fuel into the soil can be likened to wetting the corner of a sponge. With only a small amount of water, only the corner gets wet and the rest of the sponge remains dry.

If a leaking underground fuel tank is discovered, the tank owner or responsible party must notify the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or county-level agency and submit an “unauthorized release form”. The responsible party must also make every effort to stop the leak and empty the tank if necessary. The RWQCB or county-level agency will then undertake the lead in clean-up efforts, with the tank owner or responsible party reporting directly to them. Until investigation and cleanup are complete, the tank owner or responsible party must submit reports detailing cleanup efforts to the lead agency at least every three months. If the investigation fails to confirm that a leak has actually occurred, no further corrective action will be required. For those sites that do require corrective action, the cleanup process could take a few months to many years, depending on the severity of the leak.

Additional information may be available through the Public Safety Officer or Hazardous Materials Specialist in your city. They are generally located in the Fire Department or Public Works Department.

PART 5 WHAT IS A “SUPERFUND” SITE?

“Superfund” is a common term for a piece of legislation called the “Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act”, which was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980, and is enforced by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This legislation provides funding for clean up at the worst hazardous waste sites in the United States. Because the moneys involved in clean up are large, this federal statute was dubbed “Superfund.”

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The purpose of Superfund is to clean up or mitigate hazardous materials that pose an immediate and substantial danger to the public or the environment. This could be a chemical “spill” that requires immediate response or a site that requires long-term clean-up action. The chemicals found at Superfund sites can vary but some have included familiar contaminants such as arsenic, lead and mercury. Other lesser known contaminants include toluene, pentachlorophenol and vinyl chloride. This Act also holds polluters liable for clean-up expenses as well as forces responsible parties to take clean-up actions.

How does a site get on the Superfund list? Proposed sites are brought to the EPA’s attention in several ways. It could come from notification by the owner, complaints by citizens, identification by a state or local jurisdiction, or by special EPA investigations. A site is then placed on the Superfund, or “National Priorities List” (NPL) once the EPA determines that it represents a long-term threat to public health or the environment. The EPA makes this determination by evaluating such things as the likelihood that a site has released or has the potential to release hazardous substances into the environment, the characteristics of the waste (e.g. toxicity and waste quantity), and the number of people affected by the release.

The government believes that “Superfund” funding is warranted if the site poses a significant and immediate health concern. Even if federal funding is not provided, the site may require action under other statutes.

PART 6 DRINKING WATER: TAP VS. PRIVATE WELL

Being in proximity to a contaminated site occasionally raises concern regarding the quality of the drinking water and whether or not the contamination is present in that water. One important question to keep in mind is “where does the drinking water come from... a municipal water system or a private well?” The answer to this question will help to resolve the issue of contamination.

In general, homes in urban areas are typically hooked up to a municipal water system. The water from this type of system is commonly referred to as “tap water”. Municipal water suppliers are required to meet stringent drinking water standards set forth by the US EPA. These drinking water suppliers provide reports, sometimes called consumer confidence reports, which outline where the water comes from and what substances are in it. The municipal water supplier should be able to provide these reports upon request.

On the other hand, if a home is not hooked up to a municipal water source but instead is using a private well on the property, then the US EPA regulations do not apply. The homeowner is responsible for the quality and safety of the drinking water. Keep in mind that being in proximity to a contaminated site does not necessarily mean the well will be contaminated. There is always the possibility that the contamination could be traveling in the opposite direction to where the private well is located, in which case the well water would remain uncontaminated. Another possibility is that the contamination could be at a much shallower depth than where the private well is drawing water. If the private well is deep, then it possibly can bypass contamination at more shallow depths. In any case, the US EPA recommends that well owners have their water tested annually.

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For additional general information on environmental topics, contact the Public Affairs office of the California Environmental Protection Agency. This should be listed in the State government section of your local telephone book. Another good source of information may be found by contacting the environmental or hazardous materials specialist in your City or County Department of Health.