

# SUPERFUND WEEK

Vol. 11 No. 11

March 14, 1997

## Talks under way for \$8M Purity cleanup

EPA has begun negotiations with a slew of PRPs for an estimated \$8 million in cleanup work for the Purity Oil Sales NPL site in Malaga, Calif.

The agency is looking to get the Purity Oil Steering Committee, which already did the design, to construct the remedy, which will include soil vapor extraction (SVE) and gas monitoring. EPA has identified about 200 parties, and all but about 50 have joined the PRP steering committee.

The September 1992 ROD called for capping, treating contaminated soil below 14 feet via SVE, constructing a slurry wall around the site and lining a portion of the North Central Canal, which is adjacent to the site.

But EPA drastically scaled back the remedy under an Explanation of Significant Differences last year. The ESD did away with gas treatment

and the slurry wall, and decreased the number of SVE wells needed from 58 to only four, as it was found during pre-design studies that site soil is far more permeable than previously thought. Smith Environmental performed the pre-design studies. The wells will extend over the eastern two-thirds of the site.

Gas treatment was replaced with quarterly monitoring. Originally, the cap's gas treatment system would have included a sulfur dioxide scrubber and carbon adsorption for volatile organic compounds. But pre-design studies showed that carbon adsorption would not be effective due to the predominance of low molecular weight hydrocarbons in the gas.

The site will get a layered cap with gas and liquid drainage collection systems. The cap slopes will be re-engineered so that no slurry wall is needed. The cover will be extended to the rear of the Golden State Market, which borders the site on the northeast.

By paring the cleanup, EPA is expected to cut costs by more than 70%. The original plan was estimated at about \$28 million.

Further, SVE might get scrapped altogether. It is expected all subsurface piping for the SVE system will be installed during cap construction, and the plan is to do quarterly monitoring for two years, after which time EPA would reevaluate the need for SVE.

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds. Only low concentrations of volatiles have been found at the western part of the site.

EPA is looking to get remedy construction under way by the end of 1997.

The seven-acre site is located in Fresno County, about a half-mile south of Fresno in central California. Petroleum wastes reportedly were re-refined at the site for about 40 years until 1975. Oil and by-products from the refining process are said to have been collected and stored in sumps and storage tanks, while process wastes were disposed of on-site in sludge pits.

The 7-acre site has been on the NPL since September 1983.

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