



Site Cleanup Status Update

Jones Road Ground Water Plume Superfund Site
Houston, Harris County, Texas

February 2023

This update will tell you about...

- Remedial Actions
- “No New Wells” and Waterline Service Area
- Waterline Connection
- Sampling Activities
- Site History
- For More Information
- Information Repositories

Remedial Actions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) overall objective for the Site is to clean up the groundwater to ensure a source of safe drinking water in the future. To achieve this objective, EPA has been implementing remedies to remove the source of the contamination to the groundwater.

Bio-remediation injections implemented in the shallow groundwater in January 2016 and March 2018 successfully reduced chemical contaminant levels in the source area. Another round of bio-remediation injections in hot-spot areas is planned to be implemented late spring 2023, which will be followed by two rounds of sampling in fall 2023.

In May 2018, EPA installed indoor exhaust systems in three of the suites in the Cypress Shopping Center to remove contaminants that migrated into the building from the soils below. Sampling conducted after installation of the exhaust systems shows the contaminant levels in the indoor air have returned to safe levels.

In July 2019, the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system began operations to extract chemical contaminants from the soil, which further removes sources of contamination to the groundwater and prevents additional indoor air contamination. The SVE System continues to operate as expected and will be turned off before the bio-remediation injections are implemented in late spring 2023. The sampling results from the two

rounds of sampling planned for fall 2023 will provide information to determine the next steps for operation of the SVE system and removal of source of contamination to the groundwater.

“No New Wells” and Waterline Service Area

Harris County promulgated rules in 2006 that delineated a “No New Wells” area which is also the waterline service area shown in red in the figure below. Harris County restricts drilling of any new wells within this area.

In 2008 EPA installed the waterline and connected 144 homes and business to the waterline. The remaining well owners declined to participate in the 2008 waterline project. EPA is providing another opportunity to the property owners to connect to the waterline and is currently reaching out to them to sign up. EPA will continue to work with White Oak Bend Municipal Utility District to provide a clean source of drinking water. EPA anticipates starting installation of the connections in 2023. EPA plans to pay for installing the connections to the waterline and plugging and abandoning private wells.

Waterline Connection

To be connected to the waterline please contact Jason McKinney or Raji Josiam by March 15, 2023, using the contact information below.



 Water Line Service Area
- Harris County Prohibits Well
Installation within this Area

Sampling Activities

EPA continues to sample the shallow and deep groundwater zones and evaluate the results. This is to ensure contaminant levels are continuing to decrease and determine if additional actions are needed. The recent semi-annual sampling results from September 2022 show exceedances at 4 private wells, and EPA has communicated the results to these property owners. Indoor air sampling results from these residential properties, where property owners gave EPA access to sample, show results at safe levels. EPA plans to conduct another round of site-wide sampling, including private wells, in February 2023 prior to the bio-remediation injections in the hot-spot areas.

EPA also continues to sample indoor air at the Cypress Shopping Center to ensure the indoor air continues to be at safe levels. Apart from the three suites that were sampled previously on a semi-annual basis, two additional suites were sampled in September 2022. The September 2022 indoor air results from all the suites indicates that the indoor air levels continue to be at safe levels. The sub-slab soil gas results under the shopping center show several orders of magnitude reductions in contaminant levels (e.g., tetrachloroethene levels from 2,090,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ down to 470 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and trichloroethene levels from 224,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ down to 28 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) since the operation of the SVE system.

Site History

The Site is located in the northwest portion of Harris County, Texas, just outside the city limits of Houston, Texas. The Site contamination originated from the former Bell Dry Cleaners, located within the Cypress Shopping Center on Jones Road, approximately 0.5 miles north of the intersection of Jones Road and Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 1960. Jones Road is the principal north-south corridor through the area, with mixed commercial and residential properties.

The former Bell facility operated between 1988 and 2002 and used tetrachloroethene also known as perchloroethene, in its cleaning process. Releases of chlorinated volatile organic compounds from improper disposal of dry-cleaning solvents migrated vertically downward through the unsaturated zone to perched water and to lower aquifers, where multiple private water supply wells were and are presently located. The hazardous substances present at the Site include tetrachloroethene and related daughter products trichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride.

For More Information

Jason McKinney, Community Involvement
Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (ORAXO)
Phone: 214.665.8132 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)
Email: mckinney.jason@epa.gov

Raji Josiam, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (SEDRA)
Phone: 214.665.8529 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)
Email: josiam.raji@epa.gov

Diane Britt, Project Manager
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Remediation Division (MC-136)
Phone: 713.767.3573
Email: Diane.Britt@tceq.texas.gov

Inquiries from the news media should be directed to the External Affairs Office at 214.665.2200.

More Site details can be found at:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/jones-road>

Information Repositories

Northwest Branch Harris County Library
11355 Regency Green Drive
Cypress, Texas 77429
Phone: 832.927.5460

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Building E, Records Management, First Floor
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, Texas 78753
Phone: 512.239.2900