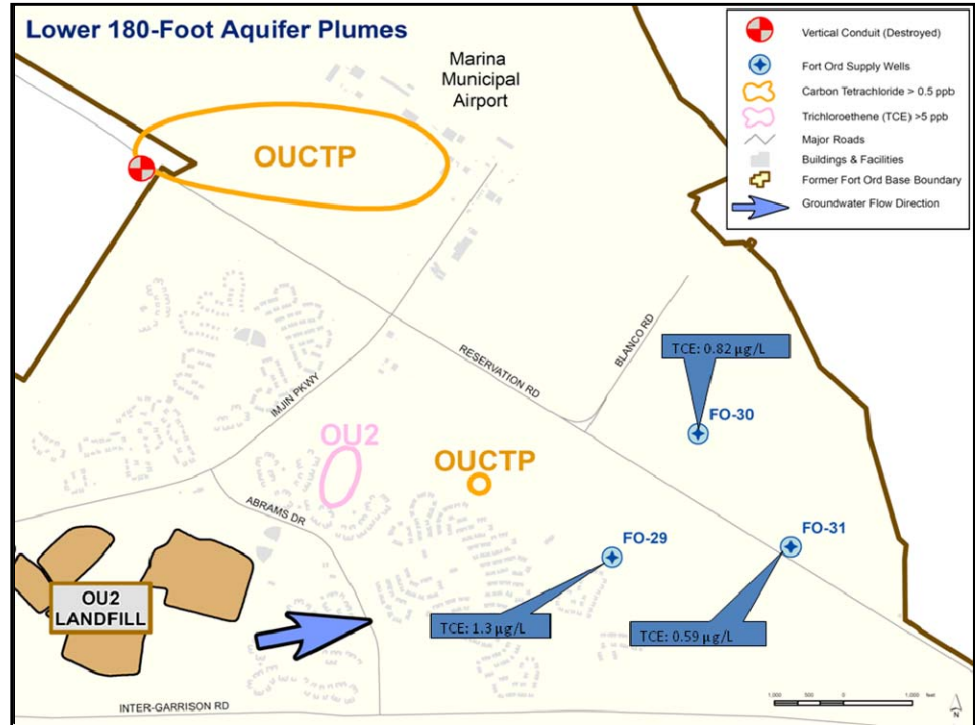


Groundwater Questions and Answers

1. What, exactly, has the Army discovered about the drinking water supply wells that supply water in the Fort Ord area?

Recent data indicate that very low concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE) have been found in three drinking water supply wells on the former Fort Ord. Previously, TCE had been identified in two of these supply wells that augment the other water supply wells of the Marina Coast Water District. Concentrations of TCE in all the supply wells are significantly below the Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). TCE is a solvent that was commonly used for cleaning engine parts in years past.



The Army has recently coordinated with a laboratory that is certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State of California to analyze drinking water samples, directing the laboratory to re-evaluate the groundwater analysis results the Army collected between 2006 and present to determine the possible presence of and estimate the concentration of carbon tetrachloride (also a commonly used solvent) in those samples. Using USEPA approved Standard Methods, carbon tetrachloride (CT) had not been detected in these samples historically because the CT concentrations are below the USEPA defined Method Detection Limit (see insert for definition). The laboratory was able to estimate very low concentrations of CT below the Method Detection Limit in two of the three drinking water wells. These estimated CT concentrations are also below Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act maximum allowable contaminant levels (see figure above.)

Method Detection Limits

The method detection limit (MDL) is defined as the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the chemical concentration is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the chemical.

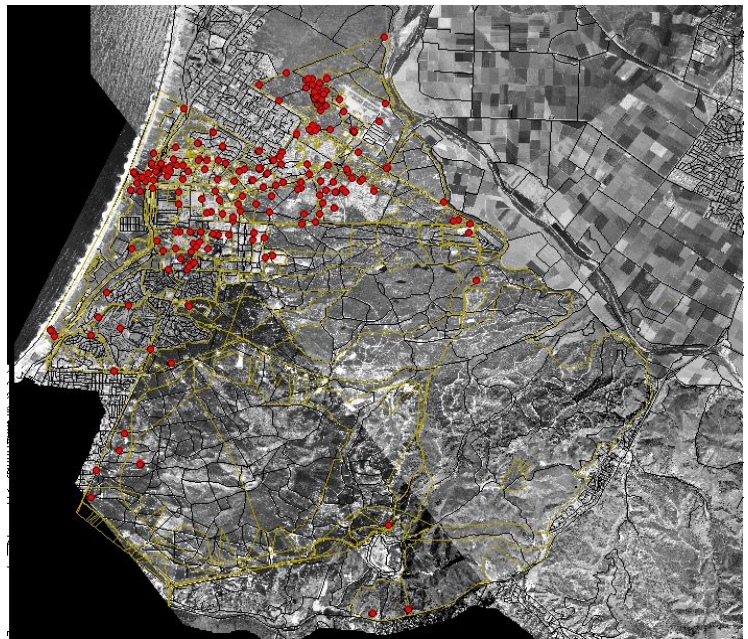
2. What does this mean for the safety of my drinking water? How can I know my drinking water is safe? What governmental agencies are responsible for ensuring drinking water safety?

Water pumped from the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) supply wells on Fort Ord consistently meets the drinking water safety standards established by the USEPA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). USEPA and CDPH regulate the operations of MCWD. As required by these agencies, MCWD monitors the drinking water supply for specified parameters and reports the data collected to USEPA and CDPH. In addition, MCWD also summarizes these data in its annual Consumer Confidence Report to the community. MCWD is required by the USEPA and CDPH to notify the community if monitoring results exceed notification levels established by these regulatory agencies.

3. How frequently is the water monitored? How can I be sure that this monitoring schedule is sufficient to identify potentially dangerous level of CT and TCE before the drinking water is affected?

The water supply wells are monitored by the Marina Coast Water District (four times per year) and the Army (four times per year) for a total of 8 monitoring events per year. This monitoring frequency is appropriate because groundwater only flows at a rate of a few feet per year.

Two types of water monitoring are conducted for the Fort Ord groundwater: (1) monitoring the three water supply wells, as noted above, and (2) monitoring the Army's several cleanup actions at Fort Ord. To monitor site cleanup, the Army conducts groundwater monitoring four times per year at over 250 monitoring well locations to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the cleanup actions. See photo at right for monitoring well locations (identified as red dots). Monitoring results indicate generally decreasing contaminant concentrations. With the oversight and approval of the EPA, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board and Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Army continues to add monitoring wells and evaluate the monitoring results to ensure and improve the effectiveness of the treatment systems as well as the protection of the drinking water wells. Groundwater monitoring data are compiled in quarterly monitoring reports and are available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.



4. Water supply is precious and limited in this area. Will these findings reduce available water supply? What is the long-term outlook with respect to CT and TCE in the water supply?

The Army's remediation programs have not decreased MCWD's ability to supply safe drinking water to meet community demand. Based on past monitoring data, the Army's groundwater treatment systems are effective in containing contaminated groundwater and have demonstrated reduction of CT and TCE concentrations in the

groundwater. The Army will continue to operate these treatment facilities until the concentrations of contaminants throughout the aquifers meet the safe drinking water standards. In addition, the Army has installed an engineered cover on the landfill to prevent water infiltration and mitigate further groundwater contamination.

5. I live on Fort Ord. Is there a risk to me when I use the water or live on or near the groundwater contamination areas? Are there cumulative or synergistic impacts associated with CT and TCE combined in the drinking water?

As stated above, the water supplied on Fort Ord meets drinking water standards as established by USEPA and CDPH. These drinking water standards represent concentrations that will ensure that drinking water does not pose either a short-term or long-term health risk. Other than groundwater extracted for treatment by the Army, county ordinances prohibit the installation of extraction wells for any other purpose, such as drinking, irrigation or industrial uses. The community is then not exposed to contaminated groundwater.

For more information on the development of the MCLs and human health risk evaluations, please contact CDPH. Contact information is included on page 4.

6. If, despite the Army's best efforts, CT and/or TCE concentrations should rise to exceed levels established by USEPA and California CDPH for drinking water supply wells, what actions will or could be taken to remedy the situation? Are plans in place for that eventuality?

If the CT and /or TCE concentrations rise above MCLs in the water supply, the affected wells would be immediately removed from the supply system. There are several actions that can then be taken. These include modification(s) to the existing treatment system such as adding additional extraction wells, establishing treatment system(s) at the drinking water supply well itself (called wellhead treatment), supplying water to consumers, etc. These actions would be reviewed and approved by the EPA and State regulatory agencies before they are implemented.

The Record of Decision for carbon tetrachloride includes provisions for triggering the construction of a wellhead treatment system, should contaminant concentrations rise to the maximum allowable in drinking water. For additional details, go to the Record of Decision for carbon tetrachloride available on-line at http://www.fortordcleanup.com/adminrec/ar_pdfs/AR-OUCTP-0021D/OUCTP-0021D.pdf.

7. What is the Army doing to keep the community updated regarding the cleanup of the former Fort Ord? How can I keep track of the groundwater issues?

The Army has maintained a robust community outreach program describing soil and groundwater cleanup since 1991, and you are strongly encouraged to participate as your interests and time allow. The outreach program includes workshops, bus tours, information booths at community events, presentations, open houses, in addition to monthly cleanup updates provided by mail and email. You can also access groundwater cleanup related reports at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

Groundwater cleanup is being highlighted at the January 13, Community Involvement Workshop held at the Marina Library at 6:30 pm. To further view the groundwater cleanup efforts, you can also participate in the February 20, 2010 Open House / Bus Tour that will highlight groundwater water cleanup projects.

Please contact Melissa Broadston at (831)393-1284 or at email Melissa.Broadston@us.army.mil to discuss your question or concerns. Or, you can contact the representatives (below) of the regulatory agencies involved with the Fort Ord drinking water and water cleanup:

For Questions on Drinking Water or Fort Ord Groundwater Cleanup:

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX:** Martin Hausladen, Remedial Project Manager, (415) 972-3007, Hausladen.Martin@epamail.epa.gov
- **California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control:** Franklin Mark, Remedial Project Manager, (916) 255-3584, FMark@dtsc.ca.gov
- **California Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board:** Grant Himebaugh, Remedial Project Manager, (805) 542-4636, Ghimebaugh@waterboards.ca.gov

For Drinking Water Questions:

- **Marina Coast Water District**, (831) 384-6131, www.mcwd.org
- **California Department of Public Health — Monterey District**, Jan Sweigert, District Engineer, (831) 655-6939, www.cdph.ca.gov
- **Monterey County Department of Health**, (831) 755-4505, www.co.monterey.ca.us/health/EnvironmentalHealth

References:

EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels, for Drinking Water Contaminants
www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/index.html

California Department of Public Health, Chemicals and Contaminants in Groundwater
www.cdph.ca.gov/CERTLIC/DRINKINGWATER/Pages/Chemicalcontaminants.aspx