

FACT SHEET

Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup

Sites 2 & 12 Groundwater Treatment System

Sites 2/12 is the location of one of the three groundwater contamination areas on the former Fort Ord. The groundwater contamination at Sites 2/12 is associated with the improper disposal of solvents from the surrounding automotive and other repair facilities. The groundwater contamination only exists in the Upper-180 aquifer and moves westward from Site 12 toward Site 2.

The groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds, primarily Trichloroethylene (TCE). Concentrations of TCE average 50-100ug/l with one isolated area near the source testing at up to 400 ug/l. The groundwater in the aquifer where the contamination occurs is not used for drinking water. However, California regulations require the Army to remediate the groundwater to drinking water standards

Three of eight chemicals of concern (COCs) represent 97 percent of the total contaminant at Sites 2/12. The highest COC concentration is TCE at 48 percent of all contamination. Other solvent compounds are 1,2-Dichloroethylene (Cis 1,2-DCE) representing 39 percent of the contamination, and tetrachloroethene (PCE) representing about 10 percent of the contamination. The remaining COCs represent less than 3 percent of the contamination. These include chloroform, 1,2-DCA, 1,1-DCE, total 1,3 DCP and vinyl chloride.

The selected remedial action at Sites 2/12 is groundwater extraction and treatment using granulated activated carbon (GAC) beds. The components of the Sites 2/12 Groundwater Treatment Plant include two 10,000 pound GAC beds, system piping, and 8 groundwater extraction wells. During treatment, groundwater is pumped from the extraction wells and piped directly through the two GAC beds in series to remove volatile organic compounds. Treated water is injected/infiltrated back into the aquifer to provide a capability to manage the contamination plume and prevent additional saltwater intrusion in the area.

Sites 2/12 groundwater treatment began late April 1999, with an initial operating rate of 300 gallons per minute (gpm). An additional 300 gpm of excess treated water from the Operable Unit 2 Groundwater Treatment Plant is also injected at Sites 2/12. The combined 600 gpm of treated water from the two treatment plants is injected at Site 2 west of Highway 1 in order to enhance contamination recovery and to prevent saltwater intrusion into the contamination plume.

To learn more about Fort Ord groundwater contamination and cleanup, visit our web site at www.fortordcleanup.com or contact Lyle Shurtleff at 9831) 393-9691.