

**OMEGA
CHEMICAL
CORPORATION
CALIFORNIA
EPA ID# CAD042245001**



**EPA
Region
9
City:
Whittier
County:
Los
Angeles
Other
Names:**

[Click here for interactive site area map](#)

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▼ SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Description: The Omega Chemical Superfund Site (the "Site") is a result of improper waste disposal at a former hazardous waste treatment and storage facility, known as the Omega Chemical Corporation (OCC), that operated from 1976 to 1991. The former OCC facility was located at 12504 and 12512 East Whittier Boulevard in the City of Whittier, California, 90602-1019 (the "Omega Property"). The Omega Property is a 40,000-square foot parcel that is zoned for industrial use. The surrounding area is a mix of industrial, commercial and residential property.

OCC operated as a spent solvent and refrigerant recycling and treatment facility. During its years of operation, drums and bulk loads of waste solvent and chemicals from various industrial activities were processed to form commercial products. Chemical, thermal and physical treatment processes are believed to have been used to recycle and reuse the waste materials. Analytical results indicate that subsurface soil and groundwater at the Omega Property are contaminated with high concentrations of tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), other chlorinated hydrocarbons and Freon. There are thirty-five drinking water supply wells within four miles of the site that supply 284,270 people. The nearest well to the site is 1.3 miles to the west. Nearly two-thirds of the wells within four miles draw water from the Lakewood and Upper San Pedro formation aquifers.

Since 1991, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and EPA's Superfund Division actively pursued the owner/operator of OCC to remove the wastes and clean up the site. In March 1995, the site owner/operator of OCC plead guilty to two felony counts of illegal storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. On May 9, 1995, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to the owner of OCC and to generators of hazardous substances that had shipped major quantities of material to the site. During 1995, EPA's Superfund Emergency Response Office oversaw removal activities, during which several thousand drums of hazardous materials and wastes were removed from the Omega Property. In 1996, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Group, with EPA oversight, undertook the collection and analyses of some preliminary subsurface soil and groundwater samples at the Omega Property and surrounding locations. Analytical results indicated that subsurface soil at the Omega Property is contaminated with chlorinated solvents, primarily PCE, TCE, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, Freons and metals. PCE contamination was detected in soil at concentrations ranging from 1.9 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) to 510 mg/kg. Groundwater samples collected at the Omega Property contained PCE up to 86,000 micrograms per liter as well as significant concentrations of other chlorinated hydrocarbons and Freon. [Note: The federal drinking water standard for PCE is 5 micrograms per liter.] The presence of PCE and TCE was also detected in groundwater at locations approximately 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 mile down-gradient of the Omega Property in the City of Santa Fe Springs.

The groundwater samples were collected in the shallow regional aquifer of the Lakewood Formation. Most of the municipal drinking water wells draw water from the deeper San Pedro Formation. California Department of Water Resources hydro geologic cross-sections of the Lakewood and Upper San Pedro Formations indicate, however, that the aquifers are interconnected within 2 miles of the Omega property.

Site Responsibility:

The Site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

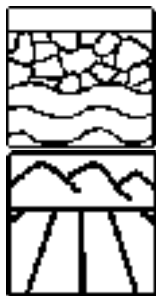
NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 09/29/98

Final Date: 01/19/99

Deleted Date:

▼ THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Subsurface soil and groundwater at the site contain a variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including PCE, TCE and Freon. As a result of the 1995-96 drum removal action, the primary source of the contamination has been removed from the Omega Property and that area is fenced off from public access. EPA is not aware of any groundwater wells that have become contaminated as a result of releases of hazardous substances at the site, and continue to take action to ensure that no one is exposed to unsafe levels of hazardous substances associated with the site. Without proper action and attention to the contamination associated with this site, people may come into direct contact with contaminated soils or groundwater and may suffer adverse health effects as a result.

▼ CLEANUP APPROACH

The subsurface contamination at the site is being addressed through both non-time critical removal action and remedial action authorities under the Federal Superfund law, the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As of mid-1999, negotiations are underway between EPA and the PRP Group to enter into a Consent Decree to allow the next phase of investigation and cleanup work to proceed. The investigation

and cleanup work under this Consent Decree will be primarily limited to soil and groundwater contamination at and near the Omega Property. Under a signed Consent Decree, the PRPs have agreed to conduct the following three primary work tasks: 1) remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for soil contamination on and associated with the Omega property; 2) a non-time critical removal action for the containment of groundwater contamination at the Omega Property and down gradient to Putnam Street; and, 3) the installation of a sentinel well monitoring system for City of Santa Fe Springs municipal drinking water well number 30R3. Work required under the Consent Decree began in 2001. Also, in the year 2001, EPA began the RI/FS of the groundwater contamination down gradient of Putnam Street by making borings and taking a sample in 80 different locations to better define the groundwater contamination plume. As a result of the boring data, eighteen monitoring wells have been installed to further help us define the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination. This down gradient groundwater RI/FS may involve EPA identifying additional PRPs.

▼ Response Action Status



During the 1980's, several assessments of subsurface conditions were performed, including sampling of soil gas and groundwater. In 1987, a 500-gallon underground storage tank was removed. In May 1995, EPA issued an UAO for the removal and offsite treatment of more than 3,000 drums of hazardous waste, 60 cubic yards of hardened resin material, hundreds of empty contaminated drums, numerous cylinders and various other smaller containers. The UAO also required the emptying two rainwater sumps and four evaporators, cleaning two cooling towers, removal of 67 refrigerant gas cylinders, decontamination of remaining equipment and structures, and disposal of 40,000 gallons resin and decontamination water. Investigation work in 1996 consisted of conducting a shallow soil gas survey at the Omega Property that included 31 samples collected at three different depths. This soil gas survey allowed for further analysis of the site's geology and hydro-geology, and the identification of any materials considered "grossly contaminated." So far, the only grossly contaminated material identified was near-surface soil contained within the loading dock sump and that material was dug-up and removed from the Omega Property. A preliminary groundwater investigation conducted in 1996 concluded that elevated levels of VOCs were present in groundwater down-gradient of the Omega Property. It is possible that the elevated VOCs detected down gradient from the Omega Property are the result of releases of hazardous substances at the Omega Property or the result of two or more commingled VOC plumes derived from currently unidentified properties other than the Omega Property. EPA's down-gradient RI/FS will attempt to sort out and identify the VOC plume associated with the Omega Property and any other groundwater contaminant plume located at this site.

In early 1999, the PRPs undertook additional field investigation activities with EPA oversight. Field activities included the installation of three groundwater

monitoring wells immediately down gradient of the Omega Property; collection of soil and soil gas samples at from each well boring, and the collection of groundwater samples for laboratory analysis. Aquifer tests were also performed on the newly-installed wells.

Site Facts:

▼ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



With the removal of the over 2,700 drums and the grossly contaminated soils from the Omega Property, EPA removed an imminent threat to the environment and health of the public. At this present time, water supplied to the City of Santa Fe Springs is free from the site's contamination. EPA will continue to monitor City water supplies and take all appropriate action to protect public health as we progress with the Site cleanup.

▼ POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) refers to companies that are potentially responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of the hazardous waste found at the site.

▼ SITE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Administrative Records:

Records of Decision:

Technical Documents:

▼ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Public Meetings:

- Newsletters and Fact Sheets: 1) [Dec 2000 - Public Input Requested](#)
2) [Jul 2001 - Consent Decree Signed--Work Begins at Omega Chemical Superfund Site \(in English y en Español\)](#)
3) [Apr 2002 - Progress at the Omega Chemical Superfund Site \(in English y en Español\)](#)

▼ SITE REPOSITORIES/LIBRARY SOURCES



The public information repositories for the site are at the following locations:

Whittier Public Library
7344 S. Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 464-3450
Ask for the Omega Site
information
Reference Desk

The most complete collection of documents is the official EPA site file, maintained at the following location:

Superfund Records Center
Mail Stop SFD-7C
95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Enter main lobby of 75 Hawthorne street, go to 4th floor of South Wing Annex.

▼ CONTACTS

EPA SITE MANAGER:

Nancy Riveland/R9/USEPA/US

ADDRESS:

U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-4)
San Francisco, CA 94105

PHONE NUMBER: (415) 972-3251

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Riveland.Nancy@epa.gov

EPA COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR: Jackie Lane

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: 1-800-231-3075

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER: (415) 947-8701

E-MAIL ADDRESS: r9.info@epamail.epa.gov

STATE CONTACT: Lori Parnass, CA DTSC

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: (818) 551-2856

PRP CONTACT: Chuck McLaughlin, demaximis, inc.

ADDRESS: 5225 Canyon Crest Dr.
Riverside, CA 92507

PHONE NUMBER: (909) 222-0387

COMMUNITY CONTACT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

After Hours (Emergency Response)

State Environmental Protection Agency

(800) 852-7550

US Environmental Protection Agency

(800) 424-8802

▼ MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

CA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

34 and 39

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-7-4