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Date: 11/18/98 Fax Number: 337-9335
Number of pages transmitted (including cover page) 3

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Reference: SW November update

Comments:

Attached please find ^{advance} a copy of the S-W update that will be distributed to Co-op/Horton Street lofts residents tomorrow. If you have questions, please contact me at the number shown above.

Thanks,
Melissa

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see

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS SITE UPDATE

November 19, 1998

This update provides community members with information about the investigation and remediation of the Sherwin-Williams site in Emeryville. Approximate dates for upcoming field activities are provided below. For schedule information that is updated weekly, please call the project information phone line: (510) 869-5466.

STATUS OF THE SITE INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP PROCESS

In February 1998, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) adopted Cleanup Order No. 98-009 for the site. The Order requires Sherwin-Williams to thoroughly investigate conditions at the site and evaluate remedial alternatives for cleaning it up. The Remedial Investigation (RI) for the site is currently in progress and several technical reports associated with the RI have been or will soon be completed. *The Current Conditions Report (CCR)*, which documents current site conditions and site-use history, was submitted to the Water Board in June. *The Work Plan Addendum for Site*

Investigations, which supplements the CCR and identifies additional tasks necessary during the RI, will be submitted in December 1998. Following review and approval of the Work Plan, the Water Board will revise the project schedule as necessary. Remedial Investigation fieldwork is expected to be completed by fall 1999 and the findings will be documented in *The Remedial Investigation Report*. RI findings will also be presented in a fact sheet and at a community meeting. The Risk Assessment for the site will be done following final approval of the RI Report.

RECENT FIELD ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AT THE SITE

The following activities have been successfully completed at the site during the past three months (completion dates in parentheses):

- Metal barrier plate affixed to the retaining wall on Horton Street to cover chemical precipitate (August 1998).
- Collection of soil and groundwater samples on the Rifkin property (September 1998).
- Plugging the drainage pipe that runs underground along the railroad tracks (to the west of the Sherwin-Williams plant) so that it no longer flows into Temescal Creek (September 1998). The pipeline was sealed to prevent the flow of ground water from the site into the creek.
- Installation of the seven additional extraction wells required for the expanded groundwater extraction system (September 1998). The groundwater extraction and treatment system originally installed at the site is being modified and expanded to increase its volume capacity.
- A storage tank most recently used for storm water was removed in order to begin excavating to locate a former water supply well (September 1998). Excavation of this area began in mid-October and the former well has been located.
- Shallow trenches were dug for all of the additional pipelines associated with the expanded extraction system (October 1998).
- Sherwin-Williams' technical consultant submitted an application to the Water Board for modification of the NPDES permit for the site (October 1998). The NPDES permit regulates the discharge of treated groundwater from the site into Temescal Creek. A modified permit is necessary because of a change in the treatment system technology, as well as an increase in the amount of water that will be discharged from the treatment system into the creek.
- Installation of vaults (access points for the underground piping system controls) for the expanded groundwater extraction system (November 1998).

UPCOMING FIELD ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE

- Installation of aboveground piping for the expanded groundwater extraction system began in late October and is expected to be completed by late November, weather permitting. Resurfacing over the shallow, gravel-filled trenches dug for the piping is also expected to be completed by the end of November.
- Installation of process tanks for the modified treatment system began in mid-October and is expected to be completed in November.
- Construction of the remainder of the new treatment system is expected to begin in late November and continue through December. Start up of the new system is expected by mid-January. The existing treatment system at the site will continue to operate until the new system is completely functional and operating smoothly.
- A shallow trench to collect rainwater will be dug along the length of the railroad tracks west of the plant. The trench will be connected by piping to the storm water system that discharges to Temescal Creek. This rainwater collection system has been developed because the underground drainage pipe that rainwater previously flowed into was recently plugged to prevent the flow of groundwater to the creek. Work on the trench will proceed once an access agreement has been negotiated with the railroad.
- Cores will be drilled into the former water supply well in mid-November to determine whether the well was abandoned properly or not. After the well's closure status is evaluated, the nature of further actions will be determined.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ACTIVITIES

The Department of Health Services (DHS) plans to conduct a dust sampling program at the Emeryville Artists Co-op this winter. Paint and dust samples will be collected from some units and analyzed to determine if lead or arsenic is present at levels of potential health concern. DHS also recently completed a Draft Public Health Assessment. This document estimates potential past health risks associated with the presence of contaminants near the Co-op prior to the emergency removal action of 1997. The public comment period on this draft document extends from November 9 through December 7, 1998. Both the dust sampling workplan and Draft Public Health Assessment are available for review in the Artists' Co-op office. Please contact Jane Riggan at (510) 450-3818 about these DHS activities.

PROJECT INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Two Information Repositories have been established for this project, one at the office of the 4613 Street Artists Co-op and the other at the Golden Gate Branch of the Oakland Public Library at 5805 San Pablo Avenue. For information repository hours, please call the Artists Co-op office at 625-2880 or the Golden Gate Library at 597-5023. The repositories contain technical documents, as well as monthly summary reports, Consultative Work Group meeting notes, key project related correspondence, and copies of all fact sheets and work notifications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SITE ACTIVITIES

For more information about the site activities described in this update, please contact Mark Johnson of the Regional Water Quality Control Board at 622-2493. Larry Mencin of Sherwin-Williams can be reached at (800) 892-8109, ext. 1768. If you have questions or comments about field work in progress, you can page Mike Marsden of Levine-Fricke-Recon at (510) 539-9045.