
State Water Resources Control Board

February 4, 2016

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Subject: Fund Recommendation regarding Case Closure of Mobil #18-HDR:
Claim 5462 for Site Address: 3195 Harbor Boulevard, Cost Mesa

Mr. Bolin:

The responsible party requested case closure in 2012. State Water Board staff prepared a UST Case Closure Review Summary Report dated November 6, 2013, recommending case closure. During the public comment period, Orange County Water District submitted comments in a letter dated January 14, 2014. The letter included a soil and groundwater investigation report prepared by Aquilogic, Inc.

The investigation included the installation monitoring of monitoring wells in the vicinity of Harbor Boulevard. MTBE was detected in groundwater which underlies and is downgradient from a number of petroleum release sites. The deeper groundwater which supplies public supply wells appears to flow in the opposite direction from shallow groundwater.

State Water Board staff reviews of the data shows a complex groundwater flow regime, MTBE in groundwater which may be from a number of petroleum release sites, and possibly a regional plume. The data collected do not support identification of the contributors to local releases or a regional plume.

The Mobil HDR case could be closed like the other closed cases that are potential contributing sources and then reopened in the event it was determined to be a contributor to offsite occurrence of MTBE. However, case closure is no longer recommended at this time. It is recommended that the responsible party work with regulatory agencies and other responsible parties whose sites overlie the impacted groundwater to determine whether they have contributed to groundwater contamination that may or may not be a continuous plume, and that the regulatory agencies, the responsible parties, and Orange County Water District develop a site conceptual model that supports collection of data related to shallow and deep groundwater flow directions to determine the groundwater capture by public water supply wells, and subsequently investigate all the potential sources which are likely to have contributed MTBE that may affect public water supply wells, and develop and implement a corrective action workplan if corrective action is feasible.

In the event the Mobil HDR site is determined not be a contributor of MTBE or if Mobil HDR is determined to be a contributor and feasible corrective action renders the Mobil HDR site to not be a significant impact to human health or the environment, then closure of the Mobil HDR case is recommended.

This response to comments and a revised UST Case Closure Review Summary Report will be posted in the usual manner.



Lisa Babcock, P.G., C.E.G.
UST Cleanup Fund Manager

Cc: Ken Williams, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Geniece Higgins, Orange County Health Care Agency