

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORDER WQ 2014-0084-UST

**In the Matter of Underground Storage Tank Case Closure
Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25296.10 and the
Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy**

BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:¹

By this order, the Executive Director directs closure of the underground storage tank (UST) case at the site listed below, pursuant to section 25296.10 of the Health and Safety Code.² The name of the responsible party, the site name, the site address, the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) claim number if applicable, the lead agency, and case number are as follows:

**Equillon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US (Responsible Party)
Shell Station (Former)
8222 Western Avenue South, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Case No. 900470216**

I. STATUTORY AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Upon review of a UST case, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to close or require closure of a UST case where an unauthorized release has occurred, if the State Water Board determines that corrective action at the site is in compliance with all of the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 25296.10. The State Water Board, or in certain cases the State Water Board Executive Director, may close a case or require the closure of a UST case. Closure of a UST case is appropriate where the corrective action ensures the protection of human health, safety, and the environment and

¹ State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0061 delegates to the Executive Director the authority to close or require the closure of any UST case if the case meets the criteria found in the State Water Board's Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy adopted by State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016.

² Unless otherwise noted, all references are to the California Health and Safety Code.

where the corrective action is consistent with: 1) Chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations; 2) Any applicable waste discharge requirements or other orders issued pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code; 3) All applicable state policies for water quality control; and 4) All applicable water quality control plans.

State Water Board staff has completed a review of the UST case identified above, and recommends that this case be closed. The recommendation is based upon the facts and circumstances of this particular UST case. The UST case record that is the basis for determining compliance with the Water Quality Control Policy for Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closures (Low-Threat Closure Policy or Policy) is available on the State Water Board's GeoTracker database.

URL: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603784940

Low-Threat Closure Policy

In State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0016, the State Water Board adopted the Low-Threat Closure Policy. The Policy became effective on August 17, 2012. The Policy establishes consistent statewide case closure criteria for certain low-threat petroleum UST sites. In the absence of unique attributes or site-specific conditions that demonstrably increase the risk associated with residual petroleum constituents, cases that meet the general and media-specific criteria in the Low-Threat Closure Policy pose a low threat to human health, safety, and the environment and are appropriate for closure under Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The Policy provides that if a regulatory agency determines that a case meets the general and media-specific criteria of the Policy, then the regulatory agency shall notify responsible parties and other specified interested persons that the case is eligible for case closure. Unless the regulatory agency revises its determination based on comments received on the proposed case closure, the Policy provides that the agency shall issue a uniform closure letter as specified in Health and Safety Code section 25296.10. The uniform closure letter may only be issued after the expiration of the 60-day comment period, proper destruction or maintenance of monitoring wells or borings, and removal of waste associated with investigation and remediation of the site.

Health and Safety Code section 25299.57, subdivision (l)(1) provides that claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs that are received by the Fund more than 365 days after the date of a uniform closure letter or a letter of commitment, whichever occurs later, shall not be reimbursed unless specified conditions are satisfied.

II. FINDINGS

Based upon the facts in the UST record and the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, the State Water Board finds that corrective action taken to address the unauthorized release of petroleum at the UST release site identified as:

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ensures protection of human health, safety, and the environment and is consistent with Chapter 6.7 of division 20 of the Health and Safety Code, and implementing regulations, the Low-Threat Closure Policy and other water quality control policies and applicable water quality control plans.

Pursuant to the Low-Threat Closure Policy, notification has been provided to all entities that are required to receive notice of the proposed case closure, a 60-day comment period has been provided to notified parties, and any comments received have been considered by the State Water Board in determining that the case should be closed.

Pursuant to section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, environmental impacts associated with the adoption of this Order were analyzed in the substitute environmental document (SED) the State Water Board approved on May 1, 2012. The SED concludes that all environmental effects of adopting and implementing the Low Threat Closure Policy are less than significant, and environmental impacts as a result of adopting this Order in compliance with the Policy are no different from the impacts that are reasonably foreseen as a result of the Policy itself. A Notice of Decision was filed August 17, 2012. No new environmental impacts or any additional reasonably foreseeable impacts beyond those that were addressed in the SED will result from adopting this Order.

The UST case identified above may be the subject of orders issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code. Any orders that have been issued by the Regional Water Board pursuant to division 7 of the Water Code, or directives issued by a Local Oversight Program (LOP) agency for this case should be rescinded to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order.

III. ORDER

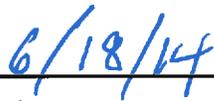
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- A. The UST case identified in Section II of this Order, meeting the general and media-specific criteria established in the Low-Threat Closure Policy, be closed in accordance with the following conditions and after the following actions are complete. Prior to the issuance of a uniform closure letter, the responsible party is ordered to:
1. Properly destroy monitoring wells and borings unless the owner of real property on which the well or boring is located certifies that the wells or borings will be maintained in accordance with local or state requirements;
 2. Properly remove from the site and manage all waste piles, drums, debris, and other investigation and remediation derived materials in accordance with local or state requirements; and
 3. Within six months of the date of this Order, submit documentation to the regulatory agency overseeing the UST case identified in Section II of this Order that the tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) have been completed.
- B. The tasks in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Paragraph (A) are ordered pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25296.10 and failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25299, subdivision (d)(1). Penalties may be imposed administratively by the State Water Board or Regional Water Board.
- C. Within 30 days of receipt of proper documentation from the responsible party that requirements in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Paragraph (A) are complete, the regulatory agency that is responsible for oversight of the UST case identified in Section II of this Order shall notify the State Water Board that the tasks have been satisfactorily completed.
- D. Within 30 days of notification from the regulatory agency that the tasks are complete pursuant to Paragraph (C), the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality shall issue a uniform closure letter consistent with Health and Safety Code section 25296.10, subdivision (g) and upload the uniform closure letter to GeoTracker.

- E. Pursuant to section 25299.57, subdivision (l) (1), and except in specified circumstances, all claims for reimbursement of corrective action costs must be received by the Fund within 365 days of issuance of the uniform closure letter in order for the costs to be considered.
- F. Any Regional Water Board or LOP agency directive or order that directs corrective action or other action inconsistent with case closure for the UST case identified in Section II is rescinded, but only to the extent the Regional Water Board order or LOP agency directive is inconsistent with this Order.



THOMAS HOWARD
Executive Director



Date



State Water Resources Control Board

UST CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY

Agency Information

Table with 2 columns: Agency Name, Address, Agency Caseworker, Case No.

Case Information

Table with 2 columns: USTCF Claim No., Site Name, Responsible Party, USTCF Expenditures to Date, Global ID, Site Address, Address, Number of Years Case Open.

URL: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0603784940

Summary

The Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy (Policy) contains general and media-specific criteria, and cases that meet those criteria are appropriate for closure pursuant to the Policy. This Case meets all of the required criteria of the Policy. Non-UST related chlorinated solvent contamination at the Site is regulated separately under site cleanup program case number 1306.

In 1976, four fuel Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and one waste oil UST were removed from the Site. Since 1976, no USTs were operated at the Site. The Site was sold by the Responsible Party and between 1981 and 1996, the Site was operated as Collins Dry Cleaners (Collins). During 2007, releases of petroleum hydrocarbons and the chlorinated solvent tetrachloroethene (PCE) were discovered in soil within and around the former UST pit. In 2008, groundwater monitoring wells MW-1 through MW-3 were installed at the Site. Groundwater samples indicate that low concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline and diesel exist in groundwater. However, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes and methyl tert-butyl ether have never been reported in groundwater. No remediation activities have been performed at the Site. Currently the Site is operated as a carwash business.

PCE exists in groundwater at concentrations that exceed Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). The former USTs were removed over 35 years ago and low concentrations of petroleum in soil collected in 2007 demonstrated the release was limited. Since 2009, groundwater concentrations of PCE in MW-2 and MW-3 located on the upgradient portion of the Site demonstrate increasing trends. Concentrations of PCE have not been reported in MW-1 located downgradient and within 100 feet of the former UST locations.

FELICIA MANGUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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It is unlikely that a limited release from the former USTs is the source of the current increasing PCE concentrations in groundwater. During 1995 and 1996, Collins was reported to have handled approximately 1,200 pounds of chemical solvents during business operations. Based on soil and groundwater data and historical Site uses, PCE contamination at the Site does not appear to have occurred during UST operations and therefore is not an impediment for UST case closure.

The petroleum release is limited to the shallow soil and shallow groundwater. The petroleum affected groundwater is not currently being used as a source of drinking water or for any other designated beneficial use, and it is highly unlikely that the affected groundwater will be used as a source of drinking water or for any other beneficial use in the foreseeable future. The nearest surface water body is the Morningside Park Reservoir located approximately 2 miles southwest and crossgradient of the plume boundary. The closest supply well is approximately 1.3 miles north-northwest and downgradient of the plume boundary. Public supply wells are usually constructed with competent sanitary seals and intake screens that are in deeper more protected aquifers. Remaining petroleum constituents are limited, stable, and declining. Additional assessment/monitoring of the petroleum contamination will not likely change the conceptual model. Any remaining petroleum constituents do not pose significant risk to human health, safety or the environment.

Rationale for Closure under the Policy

- General Criteria – Site **MEETS ALL EIGHT GENERAL CRITERIA** under the Policy.
- Groundwater Media-Specific Criteria – Site meets the criterion in **CLASS 1**. The contaminant plume that exceeds WQOs is less than 100 feet in length. There is no free product. The nearest existing water supply well or surface water body is greater than 1,000 feet from the defined plume boundary.
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site meets **CRITERIA (2) a, Scenario 3**. The depth to water is greater than 10 feet bgs, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons in soil within the upper 10 feet bgs is less than 100 milligrams per kilogram, and benzene in groundwater is less than 100 micrograms per liter.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure – Site meets **CRITERIA (3) a**. Maximum concentrations of benzene and ethylbenzene in soil are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1. The estimated naphthalene concentrations in soil meet the thresholds in Table 1 and the Policy criteria for direct contact by a factor of eight. It is highly unlikely that naphthalene concentrations in the soil, if any, exceed the threshold.

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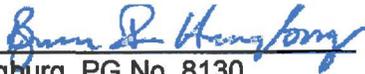
Recommendation for Closure

The corrective action performed at this Site ensures the protection of human health, safety, the environment and is consistent with Chapter 6.7 of the Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations, applicable state policies for water quality control and the applicable water quality control plan, and case closure is recommended.

Prepared By: 
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1/14/2014

Date

Reviewed By: 
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Senior Engineering Geologist

1/14/2014

Date