

State Water Resources Control Board

UST CASE CLOSURE SUMMARY

Agency Information

Agency Name: Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board)	Address: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Agency Caseworker: Robert E. Jones	Case No.: 7T2263001

Case Information

USTCF Claim No.: 12744	Global ID: T0606501052
Site Name: Palm Springs Oil Company No. 4	Site Address: 166 North Sunrise Way Palm Springs, CA 92263 (Site)
Petitioner: Steven Anenberg	Address: 3410 East Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107-3113
USTCF Expenditures to Date: \$566,055	Number of Years Case Open: 16

URL: http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0606501052

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 Site meets all of the required criteria of the Policy. A summary evaluation of compliance with the Policy is shown in **Attachment 1: Compliance with State Water Board Policies and State Law**. The Conceptual Site Model upon which the evaluation of the case has been made is described in **Attachment 2: Summary of Basic Site Information**. Highlights of the Conceptual Site Model of the Site follow:

There is currently an operating service station on site. Long-term vapor extraction testing/remediation commenced in July 2006 and was completed in November 2006. The system removed an estimated 6,632 pounds of petroleum constituents from the subsurface. Results from the long-term vapor extraction testing/remediation indicated that the majority of residual petroleum constituents had been removed and that the installation/operation of a fixed soil vapor extraction system did not appear warranted.

Water table has declined more than 40 feet since 2000. Historically, the depth to groundwater is greater than 240 feet below ground surface (bgs). All wells are currently dry. Two replacement wells were constructed to replace wells that had gone dry. Evaluating the impact to the groundwater for all wells has yielded the same result showing nearly no impact to the groundwater. Elevated levels of petroleum constituents are limited to fine-grained soil with low permeability at 30 to 80 feet bgs.

Analytical data from groundwater samples have demonstrated that total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg), methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), and benzene have been either non-detect or have established a decreasing concentration trend in all monitoring wells prior to going dry.

Rationale for Closure under the Policy

- General Criteria – Site meets all eight general criteria under the Policy.
- Groundwater – Site meets the Policy Groundwater-Specific Class “1”.
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air – Site meets the exception for vapor intrusion to indoor air. The Site is operated an active commercial fueling facility and has no release characteristics that can be reasonably believed to pose an unacceptable health risk.
- Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure – Site meets the Policy Class “a”. Maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil are less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the Policy. The estimated naphthalene concentrations in soil meet the thresholds in Table 1 for direct contact by a factor of eight. It is highly unlikely that naphthalene concentrations in the soil, if any, exceed the threshold.

Objections to Closure

Regional Water Board staff objected to underground storage tank (UST) case closure because:

1. Residual soil contamination may have the potential to threaten groundwater quality and public health.

Response: Soil analytical data indicated that elevated levels of petroleum constituents are limited to fine-grained soil with low permeability at 30 to 80 feet bgs and that concentrations decrease to residual or non-detect at depth greater than 80 feet bgs. The remaining mass of residual petroleum constituents is limited to soil below the former USTs. In addition, the water table is now greater than 240 feet bgs. TPHg, benzene, and MTBE in groundwater have been either non-detect or have established a decreasing concentration trend at or near water quality objectives (WQOs) in all wells prior to going dry. These facts indicate that the plume of petroleum constituents emanating from the UST excavations is degrading. Two replacement wells were constructed to replace wells that had gone dry to evaluate the impact to the groundwater and have yielded results showing nearly no impact to the groundwater.

Based on these conditions, the residual petroleum constituents that remain only pose a low threat to human health, safety, or the environment and will not adversely affect the beneficial use of the groundwater in the area.

2. Current groundwater conditions are unknown.

Response: Analytical data from soil and groundwater samples indicated that petroleum constituents in soil and groundwater have been degraded through natural attenuation processes. TPHg, benzene, and MTBE in groundwater have been either non-detect or have established a decreasing concentration trend at or near WQOs in all monitoring wells prior to going dry. All