

Sunburst Site Update

Texaco Sunburst Works Refinery Cleanup

July 2009



Seal testing for sub-slab vapor sampling

Vapor Intrusion Investigation

During March, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) required Chevron to conduct a vapor intrusion investigation in the southern portion of town, above and surrounding areas of known groundwater contamination. DEQ has received and evaluated the results of this study. DEQ will be sending letters to residents with the results from this vapor intrusion investigation in the next few weeks. Based on the results, DEQ required Chevron to install a mitigation system at one residence to eliminate the potential for entry of contaminated soil vapors into the building. This mitigation system has already been installed. The rest of the sampling results did not indicate vapor intrusion was occurring, or were unclear. In order to verify the data that was collected, DEQ is requiring Chevron to resample a number of residences during next winter's "worst case" time period. DEQ anticipates that this will be conducted between January 15 and February 15, 2010.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list please contact:

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Excavation of Waste Pit

Chevron excavated the waste pit that was identified during lead removal activities at a private residence last fall. Soil samples were collected from the sides and bottom of the excavation to verify that all the lead-contaminated soil was removed. Approximately 900 cubic yards of soil were removed from the property and transported to a temporary staging area in the former tank farm where the soil was placed on top of and covered with polyethylene sheeting to prevent spreading. The contaminated soil is currently being transported to a hazardous waste disposal facility. Trucking contractors transporting the soil are covering their loads and using routes through the former tank farm area so as not to transport this material through town.



Excavation of a waste pit at a private residence in Sunburst

Remedial Investigation

This summer, Chevron will begin field investigations associated with the DEQ-required Phase II Remedial Investigation (RI). DEQ and its contractors will be overseeing all of the work that Chevron is required to perform. The goal of this investigation is to completely characterize the nature and extent of all hazardous substances in air, soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater throughout the entire Facility. The Phase II RI should provide a complete picture of the full extent of contamination existing in Sunburst and allow DEQ to select a cleanup that assures protection of public health, safety, and welfare and of the environment. DEQ anticipates that this Phase II RI will take more than one field season to complete due to its large scope.

Therefore, tasks associated with the Phase II RI have been prioritized based on risks of potential exposure to residents. The areas that have the greatest potential for human exposure will be investigated first. These high priority tasks include:

- sampling surface soils throughout the entire former tank farm for the presence of contamination
- sampling surface soils in residential areas of Sunburst that may have used soils from the tank farm or had soils from the tank farm deposited by wind
- sampling surface water seeps in Sunburst for the presence of petroleum related contamination
- investigating all of the former tank berms for the presence of additional petroleum waste pits or surface soil contamination
- continuing investigations of the shallow groundwater in town
- identifying the full extent of all known occurrences of petroleum floating on the groundwater table.

Work associated with these investigations will include the installation of many more groundwater monitoring wells and soil borings with drill rigs, as well as field screening and surface soil collection methods. Any additional petroleum discovered to be floating on top of the groundwater table will be removed as part of the free product recovery work plan.



Field screening excavation side walls

Other areas in and around the former refinery that will be investigated as part of the Phase II RI include:

- the areas adjacent to the railroad where petroleum was transferred to and from railroad cars
- soils beneath historic underground piping routes
- areas in the tank farm that appear to contain ash or asphaltic materials
- the former Snow Cap Company refinery and surrounding area south of the former Texaco refinery
- the deep bedrock fracture system
- additional investigation in the former refinery process area
- investigations in the deep and shallow groundwater table in all areas to the north, south, east, and west of Sunburst.

Free Product Recovery Work Plan

In May, DEQ approved a work plan to extract free-product, or petroleum floating on the groundwater table, from all monitoring well locations where it exists. As part of the free-product recovery work plan, solar powered active belt-skimmer systems and passive petroleum collection absorbent socks are used to remove petroleum that accumulates on top of the groundwater table. All recovered petroleum must be stored in DEQ-approved containers and taken away for recycling by a DEQ-approved oil recycling facility. Approximately 277 gallons of petroleum have been recovered from these wells to date.



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The Montana Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations.

CURRENT RESIDENT
SUNBURST MT 59482

Sunburst Site Update

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) welcomes you to the July 2009 issue of *Sunburst Site Update*, a summary of recent developments and next steps in the investigation and cleanup of contamination in your community of Sunburst.

DEQ encourages you to share this information with others.

Please contact us with any questions or feedback. Thank you.

Public Meeting

DEQ will be hosting a public meeting later this summer to discuss the recent and upcoming site activities. A postcard will be sent out with additional details once the date has been set.