



# Fact Sheet

## October 2009



### Site Assessment of the February 2009 Jet Fuel Pipeline Leak

#### WHAT HAPPENED

On February 24, 2009 AT&T workers discovered jet fuel in a utility vault while conducting routine phone line maintenance. The vault is located near the intersection of State Route (SR 12) (east bound lane) and Lawler Ranch Parkway in the City of Suisun. AT&T contacted the City of Suisun fire department, who in turn notified several agencies, including Travis Air Force Base (AFB) and the Solano County Department of Resource Management (SCDRM).

Travis AFB identified the source of the leak as a ball valve within the pipeline that transfers jet fuel from the Martinez petroleum facility to the base. The ball valve is approximately 145 feet east of the SR12 - Lawler Ranch Parkway intersection. The pipeline runs east to west along SR 12.

The type of fuel that Travis AFB uses to power its cargo aircraft is JP-8, which stands for Jet Propellant 8. JP-8 is kerosene-based and is less flammable and less hazardous than earlier jet fuel formulas.

#### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

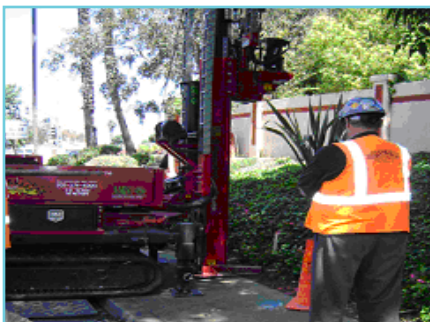
Base officials initiated an emergency response action to temporarily shut down the pipeline and stop the leak. Then, they called on an environmental contractor to start fuel recovery operations and check nearby storm water drains for the presence of

fuel. They noted a fuel sheen and odors at several locations in the storm drain east of Lawler Ranch Parkway. However, there were no odors or sheen at the outfall. An outfall is a drainage outlet for the underground storm drain piping.

During the initial response and recovery effort, a vacuum truck was used to remove about 805 gallons of fuel from nearby utility vaults, storm drains, and soil borings that were placed near the leak area. They also carried out a geophysical survey to confirm the locations of the pipeline and buried utilities; this was a precautionary measure to prevent damage to fiber optic cables, water pipes, and other utilities that may be in the area.

Initially, the biggest concerns of base officials and environmental regulators were public health protection and protection of Suisun Marsh, which is one of the largest brackish water marshes on the west coast and provides essential habitat to a large number of bird, fish and other animal species. To ensure that the fuel did not reach the outer edges of the Marsh, the contractor conducted daily inspections of nearby storm drains and outfall.

They also carried out a camera diagnostic survey of a large storm water pipe to look for interior cracks and collect enough information to plan for



A drilling specialist positions a direct push rig into position. The rig uses hydraulic pressure to push a water sampling probe into the ground.



Two field technicians monitor the performance of a vacuum truck as it removes jet fuel from a soil boring near the fuel leak.



A suction tube that is connected to a vacuum truck removes jet fuel in the ground after it was released from a leaking valve.

future repair work, if needed. Finally, they collected soil and groundwater samples in the immediate area of the leak and sent them to a California-certified laboratory for analysis.

### WHAT WAS FOUND

The daily inspections detected no jet fuel sheen or odors in the storm water drains and outfall that lead to the marsh. However, fuel was discovered in soil and groundwater at various locations near the pipeline and utility trenches along SR 12 and Lawler Ranch Parkway. The highest fuel concentrations were found in samples adjacent to, and southeast and southwest of, the leak area. A second area of high concentrations is about 100 feet south of the intersection of Lawler Ranch



Parkway and SR 12, on the east side of Lawler Ranch.

Overhead View of the Jet Fuel Leak Area. South is to the top of the photograph. The red dots represent the highest fuel concentrations found in groundwater samples.

Despite the base's emergency response recovery efforts, fuel-contaminated soil and groundwater remain at the intersection of Lawler Ranch Parkway and Highway 12. However, the remaining contamination does not pose a current threat to the public.

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Travis will collect additional soil and groundwater samples south and southwest of the fuel pipeline, nearby utility lines and in the SR 12 median. The samples will help determine how far the jet fuel traveled from the leak's source and identify the most effective way to clean up any contaminated areas.

The new samples will be collected about 25 feet to 100 feet south and southwest of the leak area.

Travis AFB will continue to monitor the local storm water drains and utility lines and eventually convert the sampling sites to groundwater monitoring wells or plug them in accordance with State of California

environmental law.

### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FUEL LEAK CLEANUP ACTION

Base officials' primary concern is to protect public health and safety by ensuring the appropriate cleanup of the remaining contamination.

There are several ways to obtain updates on the progress made to investigate and clean up this fuel leak. Both Ms. Merrie Schilter-Lowe from the Travis AFB Public Affairs Office and Mr. Josuwa Bernardo from the SCDRM can help answer your questions.

1. Write to them at the addresses below.
2. Talk to them by calling their phone numbers that are provided below.
3. Send them an email to the addresses below.

**For additional information, please contact:**

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