



Fact Sheet

June 2010



Site Investigation of the February 2009 Jet Fuel Pipeline Leak

BACKGROUND

This fact sheet updates the status of the environmental investigation into the February 2009 petroleum pipeline leak near the intersection of State Route 12 and Lawler Ranch Parkway in Suisun City. The leak was discovered along a portion of the pipeline that transfers jet fuel from a Martinez petroleum facility to Travis Air Force Base (AFB). The type of jet fuel Travis AFB uses is Jet Propellant 8 (JP-8), which is kerosene-based and less flammable and less hazardous than earlier jet fuel formulas.

In October 2009, Travis AFB published an initial fact sheet with more details about the leak and the initial response. An electronic copy of this fact sheet is available on the Travis AFB public environmental website at: <http://www.travis.af.mil/enviro>.

THE INITIAL RESPONSE

Travis AFB identified the source of the leak as a ball valve within the pipeline. After shutting down the pipeline and repairing the valve, environmental specialists started fuel recovery operations and checked nearby storm water drains and the area surrounding the leak for the presence of fuel. Daily inspections showed that fuel did not enter Suisun Marsh or other avenues leading to the marsh. However, inspectors discovered fuel in the soil and

groundwater at various locations along the pipeline and in utility trenches along SR 12 and Lawler Ranch Parkway.

THE SITE INVESTIGATION

In March 2010, Travis AFB began a more detailed environmental investigation to determine how far jet fuel and its constituents had traveled from the leak's point of origin. Additional soil and groundwater samples were collected along the fuel pipeline, nearby utility lines and in the median of Lawler Ranch Parkway. Because the investigation area included portions of several Lawler Ranch residential properties, the base obtained landowners' permission to collect samples on their properties. Travis coordinated all field activities with the Solano County Department of Resource Management (SCDRM).

Although this preparation extended the time between sampling events, it ensured that all field activities were legally and technically carried out.

The results from the soil and groundwater sample analysis currently show that the fuel has migrated beneath the back yards of three homes in Lawler Ranch. The northern boundary of the fuel contamination has been established, but the southern boundary has yet to be determined.



A drilling specialist positions a track-mounted drill rig to install a test boring. Soil samples from the boring were inspected to characterize subsurface soil conditions.



A drilling specialist uses a mobile Geoprobe drill rig to collect soil samples. This type of sampling equipment works well in confined spaces and areas with limited access.



A field technician inspects a groundwater sample in a bailer. Visual inspections of water samples from monitoring wells identified the presence of fuel on the water table.



Overhead view of the southern part of the Jet Fuel Leak Area. The red dots represent the highest fuel concentrations found in subsurface soil samples.

THE NEXT STEP

After reviewing the results of the Site Investigation field and laboratory data, Travis AFB and SCDRM decided that an additional round of sample collection and analysis are needed to complete the Site Investigation and select the appropriate cleanup strategies. Often, an environmental investigation is conducted in phases to fill in data gaps and completely identify the nature and extent of contamination. New sample locations, based on the results from previous sample locations, have been identified and will be approved by all interested parties before the next sampling round takes place.

In addition, the field team will collect soil vapor samples from several locations to evaluate the presence of vapors from JP-8. Over the next few months, Travis AFB will coordinate a second round of field work with SCDRM and property owners. This

work should begin later this summer.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FUEL LEAK CLEANUP ACTION

Base officials continue to hold the protection of public health and safety as the highest priority when planning and conducting the field work that will lead to the final cleanup of this fuel leak.

There are several ways to obtain updates on the status of this cleanup project. Both Ms. Merrie Schilter-Lowe (Travis AFB Public Affairs Office) and Mr. Josuwa Bernardo (SCDRM) can answer your questions or provide the latest information available.

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

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Merrie Schilter-Lowe
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs Office
400 Brennan Circle, Building 51
Travis Air Force Base, CA 94535
(707) 424-2011
merrie.schilterlowe@travis.af.mil

Mr. Josuwa Bernardo
Solano County Department of Resource Management
675 Texas Street, Suite 5500
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-6765
jbernardo@solanocounty.com