



Former Texaco Refinery/Pacific Coast Pipeline Site – Fillmore Works

Health Studies

Site History

The former Texaco Refinery / Pacific Coast Pipeline (PCPL) site, also known as Fillmore Works, is located on the eastern border of the City of Fillmore and has been part of the local landscape for nearly a century. From 1915 until 2002, the site was used first as a refinery (until 1950) and later as a crude oil storage and transfer facility. While the property is no longer in use, historic operations led to soil and groundwater contamination that require environmental cleanup. Sampling found petroleum-related chemicals like benzene and toluene in groundwater, and lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil on the property.

Human Health Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is a scientific study that evaluates whether people are at risk from current or future exposure to contamination. The most recent PCPL study was developed under the direction of the US EPA and evaluated health risks from exposure to petroleum-related chemicals remaining in the soil and groundwater. The primary chemicals are benzene in deep groundwater and PAHs and lead in soil. The risk assessment evaluated risk to neighbors from blowing dust, soil vapor (air between soil particles), and groundwater. The risk assessment found that the chemicals on-site do not pose a health risk to residents living near the site. However, some distinct areas of on-site soil need to be cleaned up before the site is redeveloped for future use.

How do you know the site is safe for neighbors?

Under US EPA direction and oversight, Chevron regularly samples and monitors chemicals in dust and groundwater. Dust data are collected from ten monitoring stations, including two within the neighborhood, when cleanup work is being conducted on site. The data collected to date show soil contaminants are not traveling offsite in dust. Soil vapor samples collected in the neighborhood showed that benzene is not migrating from groundwater into homes. Additionally, groundwater, located between 50 and 90 feet

below ground, is not a source of drinking water and does not pose a health risk to residents.

Epidemiology Study

An epidemiology study looks at the frequency, causes and prevention of disease in populations. The East Fillmore cancer study was designed to investigate the concerns of neighbors that exposure to site chemicals may have caused an increased rate of cancer, or cancer cluster in the neighborhood. A cancer cluster is the occurrence of a greater than expected number of cancer cases in a particular group of people, a geographic area, or a period of time.

A true cancer cluster, rather than a coincidence, is more likely if it involves one or more of the following factors:

- A large number of cases of one type of cancer
- A rare type of cancer
- An unusual number of cases of a type of cancer in a group of people that it does not usually affect

The California Cancer Registry's epidemiologist studied the cancer cases in the East Fillmore census tract close to the PCPL site. He compared East Fillmore cancer cases with the expected number of cases for Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. He evaluated the rates for all cancers combined, as well as 15 specific types of cancer, including those specifically raised as a concern by neighbors.

The California epidemiologist found that the cancer rates in the East Fillmore census tract were not higher than those in the neighboring three counties. He found no unusual patterns that would suggest evidence that a cancer cluster exists nor any relationship to the PCPL site.

For more information, please visit our website, www.FillmoreWorks.com, where we have posted a health and ecological study brochure and the California Cancer Registry's study results.