



Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site Update

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • January 2018

U.S. EPA Proposes Partial Deletion of Former Refinery from Superfund List

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to delete the surface soil portion of the Pacific Coast Pipeline (PCPL) Superfund site from EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), frequently referred to as the list of Superfund sites. EPA has determined that the soil cleanup conducted in 2013–2014 achieved the cleanup specified in the 2011 **Record of Decision (ROD)** Amendment. Confirmation sampling indicates all contaminants of concern in the surface soil (down to 10 feet below ground) are below the cleanup levels and the property can now be used for commercial and recreational purposes. EPA is requesting public comment on the proposal.

Public Comment Period for Upcoming Proposal

There is a 30-day public comment period starting on the day EPA publishes the Notice of Intent for Partial Deletion in the Federal Register, from December 26, 2017–January 25, 2018. EPA will also publish a notice in two local papers, the Ventura County Star and the Fillmore Gazette. The Federal Register notice will be available at <http://www.regulations.gov>, identified by Docket ID No.

EPA-HQ-SFUND-1989-0011 with all of the documents that support this proposal. If, after receiving comments, EPA determines it is appropriate to delete the soil portion of the Site, EPA will publish a Notice of Partial Deletion in the Federal Register, with replies to any comments received. Deletion of a site from the NPL does not in any way alter EPA's right to take enforcement actions, as appropriate.

Documents that support this proposal are also available for viewing on:

EPA's website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/pacificcoastpipeline>



The local repository:

Fillmore Library

502 2nd Street

Fillmore, California

Call (805) 524–3355 for hours



How to Submit Written Comments

There are several ways to submit written comments. You can submit comments online through the Federal Register Docket website at <http://www.regulations.gov>, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-SFUND-1989-0011, by e-mail to hadlock.holly@epa.gov, or in writing no later than January 25, 2018, to Holly Hadlock (SFD-7-3), U.S. EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

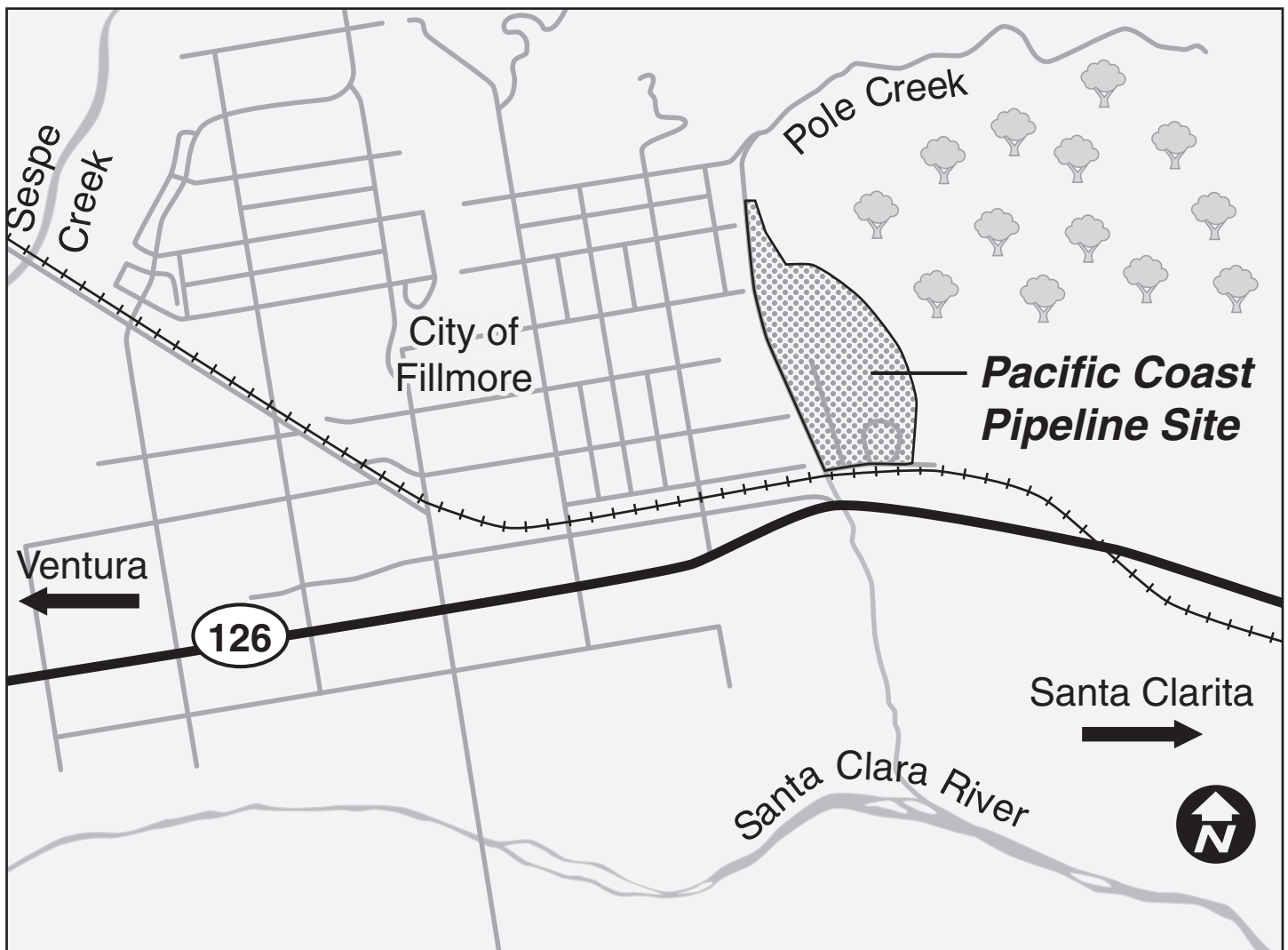


Figure 1: Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund Site

Background

The PCPL site is located east of the City of Fillmore in Ventura County, California. The site was occupied by an oil refinery until 1950, followed by a crude oil pumping station until 2002. Refinery wastes resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. The primary contaminants in soil were lead and **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**; the primary contaminant in groundwater is benzene. EPA issued a ROD in 1992, with California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) concurrence, to address the groundwater contamination. The cleanup plan involved removing and treating benzene and toluene from groundwater and soil vapor from above the groundwater plumes. The pump and treat system and **soil vapor extraction (SVE)** system operated for nine years. The systems were shut off in 2002 when they were no longer effective at removing contamination.

EPA amended the cleanup plan in 2011 to address soil contamination and the remaining groundwater contamination.

The selected remedy for soil included:

1. excavation of contaminated soil and disposal in an on-site **consolidation area**;
2. a multi-layer cap over the consolidation area in order to prevent direct contact; and
3. **institutional controls** to limit property use to commercial and recreational uses.

The selected remedy for groundwater included:

1. air sparging and SVE: injection of air into contaminated groundwater to boost breakdown of contamination; followed by
2. enhanced bioremediation: circulation of groundwater in the plume to continue the breakdown of contamination; followed by
3. monitored natural attenuation: allowing bacteria that live in the groundwater to remove the remaining contamination; and
4. institutional controls to prohibit groundwater use until cleanup levels are met.

Current Status

Soil: The surface soil cleanup was completed in 2014 and the property is now ready for commercial and recreational use. It cannot be used for residences or schools. A **land use covenant** to restrict the property use was recorded at the Ventura County Recorder's Office on August 19, 2016. This covenant is binding on current and subsequent property owners and remains in effect until it is formally modified or removed. EPA will continue to assess the site every five years to determine if the cleanup remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The most recent review was conducted in 2016 and the results are summarized below. All selected cleanup objectives and associated cleanup levels are consistent with EPA policy and guidance. The surface soil portion of the site can be deleted

from the list of Superfund sites because it meets all of the completion requirements specified in *Close-Out Procedures for National Priorities List Sites*.

Groundwater: The 2011 ROD Amendment calls for air sparging in the groundwater. However, due to the drought there is very little groundwater so EPA has focused on removing benzene and toluene from deep soil (deeper than 10 feet) with an SVE system. The system has removed 38 pounds of benzene and 24 pounds of toluene since it began operating in 2015. After this system is no longer efficient at removing contamination, EPA will install a bioremediation system or will implement the monitored natural attenuation remedy.

Five Year Review Results

EPA prepared a Five-Year Review Report in 2016 and it is available on EPA's website. The results presented in this report are:

1. All soil cleanup requirements have been met.*
2. All legal restrictions are in place. These restrictions, which prohibit certain uses of the property and use of groundwater until it is clean, are in the form of Land Use Covenants filed with the Ventura County Recorder's Office.*
3. The air sparging/soil vapor extraction system began operating in 2015 and continues to remove benzene and petroleum chemicals from the soil deeper than 10 feet below ground surface.
4. Due to the drought, most of the groundwater wells are dry. In the few wells that do have water no benzene was detected.

**Items 1 and 2 support the basis for partial deletion of the surface soil at the Site.*

Glossary

consolidation area: a large on-site pit in which excavated soil from across the site was deposited

institutional controls: administrative and legal controls that help minimize the potential for exposure to contamination, e.g., deed restrictions

land use covenant: document that imposes appropriate limitations on land use

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs): a group of more than 100 different chemicals that occur naturally in crude oil

Record of Decision (ROD): an EPA document that explains the cleanup plan for a Superfund site

soil vapor extraction (SVE): a treatment method that removes contaminant vapors in the soil by vacuuming them out



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Contact Information

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