

A Summary of Findings Fillmore, California

Overview

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) works with other agencies, states, and local governments to assess health risks in communities where people may be exposed to (come in contact with) dangerous chemicals. This is a report of our latest findings related to Pacific Coast Pipeline site.

The Bottom Line

- The levels of dust in Fillmore can sometimes pose a health risk to individuals with certain pre-existing health conditions (see Box 1).
- It is unlikely that residents have come in contact with enough lead and PAHs from site soil in the recent past (2011 – 2013) to cause health effects.
- The redevelopment plan protects the public from harmful contact with lead and PAHs in the soil.

- The yellow dot means that the site likely does not pose a health risk to community members, but general conditions in the community can sometimes pose a health risk to sensitive populations.
- The green dot means there is no expected health hazard.

History

The Pacific Coast Pipeline is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund site owned by part of Chevron Corporation. It was an oil refinery until 1950 and then a pumping station until it closed in 2000. EPA has been involved with cleaning up the site since the 1980s. In 1986, EPA oversaw the removal of 38,000 tons of waste and contaminated soil. However, there were still lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil on-site. Since 2011, EPA has watched over Chevron's actions to dig out contaminated soil from many on-site areas, put it together in two places on-site, and put a cap over the contaminated soil.

ATSDR and Pacific Coast Pipeline

In 2012, EPA asked ATSDR to investigate if residents living near the site are being harmed by dust from the site activities and if people might be harmed by soil exposure after redevelopment.

Since then, ATSDR has been reviewing environmental data and information about human exposures and possible health effects.



Photo of the Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund site, looking west, September 2012.

Community Concerns

ATSDR staff visited the site in January 2013 and met with members of the Fillmore community to understand their concerns. We have also had ongoing communication with local community groups since 2013. ATSDR staff learned that people were worried that:

1. Dust generated during cleanup activities is harmful to nearby residents and school children
2. Contact with site contaminants is harmful to nearby residents and school children
3. Reuse of the property will put users at risk of contact with contamination

Additionally, there's concern that past exposure has contributed to cancer diagnoses in the community.

Health Consultation

What did ATSDR do?

ATSDR looked at:

- Dust monitoring data from 2011- 2013
- Wind speed and direction data from 2011 – 2013
- Site soil data from 1980 - 2011
- Soil data west of Pole Creek from 2007
- EPA's Record of Decision document from 2011
- Chevron's 2013 conceptual site redevelopment plan
- Ventura County and California Blood-lead Surveillance Data for 2011
- Census 2000 Data for Pre-1950 Housing Units and Children Younger than 6 Years Living in Poverty



Fillmore City Hall 2012
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What did ATSDR find?

During our investigations, ATSDR collected detailed information about the community's concerns. These issues are listed below — along with what we learned about them during this assessment:

1. Concern about dust:

- Dust levels in the air occasionally exceeded the standard levels.
- When dust exceeded the standard level, residents with pre-existing health conditions may have experienced short-term health effects, but long-term effects from these exposures are unlikely (See Box 1).
- ATSDR cannot tell for certain how much the cleanup activities in the recent past (2011-2013) contributed to dust in the nearby community.
- Chevron used real-time monitoring and dust control methods to limit the amount of dust generated by earthmoving activities at the site.

Box 1. Dust and Your Health

Fillmore is known to have warm, dry summers. On windy days, dust can be carried across the landscape. When there is a lot of windblown dust, residents with pre-existing health conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or emphysema may experience respiratory irritation. People with cardiopulmonary illnesses may be at higher risk for heart attacks and stroke when exposed to high levels of windblown dust.

What did ATSDR find? (continued)

2. Concern about contact with site contaminants:

- Community members were unlikely to be exposed to lead or PAHs in site soil and dust at levels that could cause health effects in the recent past (2011–2013).
 - A fence surrounds the site to restrict public access, so it is not likely residents would have come into direct contact with contaminants on the site.
 - Site dust blown into nearby areas may have contained small amounts of lead and PAHs, but not at levels that could cause health effects.
- See boxes 2 and 3 for information about lead and PAHs.

3. Concern that reuse of the property will put users at risk of contact with contamination

- Redevelopment plans at the site include deed restrictions so that the site may be used only for commercial, industrial, or recreational purposes.
- Lead and PAH that remain in the exposed soil after cleanup is completed will not likely be at levels high enough to cause health effects during future commercial, industrial, or recreational use.

Other Health Concerns

At the request of the Fillmore mayor, the California Cancer Registry analyzed and reported on known cancer cases in the census tract that included the East Fillmore population.

- The analysis included Registry data from 1996 – 2009 on:
 - 14 specific cancer types with potential links to site contaminants
 - Childhood cancers (younger than age 15 years)
 - All cancer types combined
- Results did not show more or fewer new cancer cases in the East Fillmore population as compared to expected number of cases in the area.

The Cancer Registry presented these findings to community members in February 2013. Several community members expressed concerns about the timeframe and geographical area included in the study. Community members also noted that people who had lived in the area in the past, but lived elsewhere when their cancer was diagnosed, were not included in the analysis.

Box 2. What is lead?

Lead is a metal that is found in batteries, bullets and shot, and solder. It is also found in industrial processes and was part of house paint until 1978.

Lead is poisonous. It can cause learning and behavior problems. Some of the effects of lead poisoning may never go away.

Community members were unlikely to be exposed to lead in site soil and dust at levels that could cause health effects in the recent past (2011–2013).

Box 3. What are PAHs?

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of chemicals that occur naturally in coal, crude oil, and gasoline. They are also present in products like coal-tar pitch, creosote and asphalt.

Studies in animals have shown a link between PAHs and reproductive problems, harm to the skin, and harm to the body's ability to fight disease. Studies in people and animals show that exposure to PAHs can cause cancer of the lung, stomach, and skin.

Community members were unlikely to be exposed to PAHs in site soil and dust at levels that could cause health effects in the recent past (2011–2013).

How can the Fillmore community protect their health and safety?

There are things people can do to protect their health and safety. Here's a summary of ATSDR recommendations:

- Move indoors and call the dust complaint number (661-632-1408) or the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's 24-hour complaint hotline at (805- 654-2797) if you see dust blowing off-site during future site activities.
- Heed warning signs and not trespass on the site. Talk with your children about not going over or through fences.

What can other organizations do?

To make sure the Fillmore community is safe, ATSDR recommends that site cleanup teams, people seeking to redevelop the site, local land planning organizations, and Chevron take steps to:

- Stop dust from moving off-site during future redevelopment activities by following the dust-focused precautions in the site Dust Suppression and Air Monitoring Plan. While ATSDR does not expect dust released from the site during redevelopment to contain lead or PAHs at levels of health concern, exposed soils at the site could contribute to high dust levels in the area.
- Follow deed restrictions – which prohibit building residences, hospitals, day care centers, homes, or schools, or growing plants for human consumption on the site – when seeking to redevelop or build.
- Ensure long-term maintenance of on-site consolidation areas – including monitoring the protective cap to ensure it stays intact. This will help ensure that soil will not harm people who use the site in the future.

If requested, ATSDR can also:

- Connect community members to the Ventura County Health Care Agency if they have concerns about lead poisoning.
- Review work-plans for future site redevelopment and make recommendations to protect public health.
- Review new environmental sampling data, if available, and make recommendations to protect public health.



Fillmore Library, 502 Second Street, Fillmore, CA 93015.

Where can I learn more?

ATSDR region 9 staff are available to answer your questions.

You can contact them by telephone or email:

Ben Gerhardstein, Public Health Advisor, 415-947-4316, bgerhardstein@cdc.gov

Jamie Rayman, Health Educator, 415-947-4318, jrayman@cdc.gov

You may call toll free: 1-800-232-4636.

The public comment version of ATSDR's Health Consultation is available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/HCPHA.asp?State=CA>. You may also access it at the repository locations listed below, or by contacting the ATSDR staff listed on the previous page.

City Clerk's Office
City of Fillmore
250 Central Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015

Fillmore Library
502 Second Street
Fillmore, CA 93015

How can I give feedback on the report?

You can give comments on the draft Health Consultation report by sending written comments to ATSDR until August 31, 2015. Send your comments by email to ATSDR at ATSDRRecordsCenter@cdc.gov, or by postal service mail to:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
ATTN: ATSDR Records Center
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS F-09
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027



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