



Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site Summer 2008

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater and soil contamination at the Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site. The ADEQ WQARF program, which is also known as state Superfund, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state.

The Miracle Mile WQARF Site is located in west Tucson, and is bounded approximately by Wetmore Road to the north, Flowing Wells Road to the east, Prince Road to the south, and La Cholla Boulevard to the west.

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with trichloroethene (TCE) and chromium occurring over regulatory limits. Depth to groundwater is about 70 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the perched aquifer, and about 160 feet bgs in the regional aquifer.

SITE HISTORY

In the fall of 1983, the drinking water supply well at the Tra-Tel Tucson R.V. Park, located to the southwest of the present Miracle Mile WQARF Site, was found to be contaminated with PCE. Initial investigations focused on defining conditions within the site. These activities included soil and groundwater sampling, identification of facilities in the area of contamination, and distribution of survey questionnaires to these facilities.



Soil extracted during drilling is closely examined and analyzed to provide information about the hydrology and geology of the site.



Several monitor wells have been installed to investigate the contamination in and around the Miracle Mile WQARF site.

Subsequent investigations included facility inspections, facility record searches, reissuing of questionnaires, installation of monitor wells, and continuing groundwater sampling and monitoring.

The Miracle Mile site was placed on the WQARF Registry in September 1998.

SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTION

In August 1995, ADEQ abandoned two private wells in the Miracle Mile area. A perched aquifer contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) was present in both wells. Water from this perched aquifer was cascading through the well bores and contributed to the contamination of the deeper regional aquifer. Quarterly groundwater sampling and monthly water level measurements began in May 1999.

In 2001, in response to a request for an interim remedial action from Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID), ADEQ re-equipped one of its production wells (FWID-72) and constructed surface storage facilities after completion of a water supply study to identify and evaluate alternate water supplies.

In Summer 2002, ADEQ abandoned the inactive Fairfax Industrial Park industrial production well to prevent potential cross-contamination between the contaminated perched aquifer and the underlying regional aquifer.

Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) has completed construction of a joint arsenic and VOC wellhead treatment system. Groundwater produced from two FWID water supply wells is treated by this system and delivered to customers in FWID's service area.

ADEQ is currently completing the Remedial Investigation (RI) as part of the WQARF remediation process. The RI helps to determine what contaminants are present at the site, the extent of the contamination, and potential sources of the contamination. The Draft RI was sent out for public comment in March 2007. Following the RI will be a Feasibility Study, which will identify and assess remedial options.

HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

The Arizona Department of Health Services completed a Draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment in January 1995 of the Miracle Mile site. No significant health risks associated with this site were identified at that time.

There are potential risks associated with exposure to VOCs, principally through drinking contaminated groundwater. No one is known to be drinking contaminated water from this site; however, if you are drinking water from a private well within the boundaries of the site, please contact the ADEQ Project Manager. Cleanup activities are important to ensure the quality of future drinking water supplies.

Photo on the right: The new groundwater and arsenic treatment facility was installed by Flowing Wells Irrigation District in 2007 as part of ADEQ's cleanup of trichloroethene (TCE) and chromium at the Miracle Mile WQARF site. The project was financed in part through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) and ADEQ.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the site was established in November 1999, and holds public meetings approximately four times a year. The purpose of the CAB is to advise ADEQ, the public and other interested parties about the issues and concerns of the community related to the investigation and cleanup of a WQARF site. The CAB consists of a diversified cross-section of the community, including residents, water providers, and other interested groups.

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Complete public files regarding the site are located at ADEQ's Phoenix offices. Call 1(800) 234-5677 for information. Hearing impaired persons may call ADEQ's TDD line at (602) 771-4829.

For more information on this WQARF site or other WQARF sites in the State of Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: www.azdeq.gov. In the left-hand column, click on Waste Programs, then on Superfund/WQARF. Look for the Site Information and Maps Link.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, se puede contactar a Melissa Hayes al (520) 770-3309.

