Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
Governor

Proposition 65 Notification
Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25180.7
Designated Government Employee Disclosure Requirement

Date: December 18, 2023

To: Supervisor John Gioia
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Contra Costa Health
ATTN: Ori Tzvieli, MD
Local Health Officer
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ATTN: Kristian Lucas, REHS
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From: Freddy Gomez
Hazardous Substance Engineer
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Freddy.Gomez@dtsc.ca.gov

Property Name: Former - Courteous Cleaners
Address: 2022 Barret Avenue, Richmond, California 94801

This notification by a designated government employee of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") is made pursuant to the state's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"). More specifically, this notification is being made pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25180.7, which is part of Proposition 65.

Within the last 72 hours, I have obtained information in the course of my official duties pertaining to the property address specified above, indicating that illegal discharges of a hazardous waste have occurred and that such discharges are likely to cause substantial injury to the public health or safety.

DTSC performed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on September 8, 2022, under the Discovery and Enforcement program. Historical dry-cleaning operations occurred at the site from at least 1960 to 2001. Courteous Cleaners operated from 1982 to 1999 and was identified as a small quantity generator of halogenated solvents. Contra Costa County database indicated the Site produced less than 5 tons of waste per year. The database listings reviewed in the Phase I ESA indicated the disposal of 0.1 tons of halogenated solvents in 1987 and another 0.1 tons of halogenated solvents in 1999. DTSC reviewed hazardous waste manifests in its Hazardous Waste Tracking System for the former Courteous Cleaners business, which indicate that halogenated solvents (waste code F002), were managed at the Site in 1999.

DTSC's contractor performed a Discovery Investigation within the right-of-way, adjacent to the Former Courteous Cleaners (Site), located at 2022 Barret Avenue, Richmond, California 94801 on October 18, 2023, and October 19, 2023. The purpose of the sampling event was to evaluate the potential impact to the Site due to the historical dry cleaner operations.

The results of the single soil gas sampling event show the presence in the subsurface, high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), and other degradation products including vinyl chloride (VC), as well as total petroleum hydrocarbons in the gasoline range (TPHg), including specifically benzene and ethyl benzene. The soil gas concentrations of these chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and cause non-cancer adverse effects are high enough that when using a screening attenuation factor for soil gas to indoor air ($AF_{SG/IA}$) the calculated indoor air concentrations are associated with a cancer risk well outside the upper limit of the risk management range (i.e., 1:10,000 people) and the acceptable hazard index of one for non-cancer effects. <u>The presence of high concentrations of TCE are of particular concern and create urgency for taking action because of its potential to</u>

cause fetal cardiac malformations when women are exposed during the first trimester of pregnancy.

DTSC Discovery and Enforcement (D&E) staff and Human and Ecological Risk Office (HERO) reviewed the Report on December 15, 2023.

DTSC staff compared the results of the single soil gas sampling event available to applicable screening levels (SLs) such as those in the DTSC's HERO Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Note 3 DTSC-Modified Screening Levels. TCE was compared to the urgent action levels reported in HHRA Note 5 for residential and commercial/industrial receptors, due to the mixed uses of the dwellings surrounding the sampling area. To calculate the estimated indoor air concentrations, a screening level default $AF_{SG/IA}$ of 0.03 was used. The cumulative cancer risk for the indoor air maximum concentrations based on the sampling results, vastly exceeds the upper limit of the risk management range of 1×10^{-4} (or one in 10,000 people), additionally the results exceed by orders of magnitude, the acceptable hazard index of one for non-cancer effects.

Sampling results show the following:

a. TCE was detected at a maximum concentration of 793,000 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) during this sampling event. When applying the default screening level $AF_{SG/IA}$, the predicted ambient indoor air concentration is 23,790 $\mu g/m^3$. The calculated TCE concentration exceeds the HERO-HHRA Note 5 Urgent Response Action Level, for residential of 2 $\mu g/m^3$ and the Commercial/Industrial (8-hour workday) of 24 $\mu g/m^3$.

   TCE is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer. TCE is also known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity including congenital heart defects, spontaneous abortion, small birth weight, central nervous system defects especially during the first trimester of pregnancy, and low sperm count in men. TCE can also cause a decreased immune system response in both adults and children.

b. PCE was detected at a maximum concentration of 10,700,000 $\mu g/m^3$ during this sampling event. When applying the default screening level $AF_{SG/IA}$ of 0.03, the predicted indoor air concentration is 321,000 $\mu g/m^3$. The PCE concentration exceeds the DTSC-cancer SLs for residential and commercial/industrial ambient air of 0.46 $\mu g/m^3$ and 2 $\mu g/m^3$ respectively. Estimated PCE indoor air concentrations also exceeds the ambient air noncancer DTSC-SLs for residential and commercial/industrial receptors of 42 $\mu g/m^3$ and 180 $\mu g/m^3$ respectively.

   PCE is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, including cancer of the bladder, liver, and kidney, as well as multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Exposure to PCE can also cause noncancer adverse health effects to the central nervous system (including changes in vision, mood, attention, reaction time and memory), kidneys, liver, immune system, and blood

system. PCE may also cause health effects related to the reproduction and development of offspring.

c. Benzene was detected at a maximum concentration of 527 µg/m^3 during this sampling event. When applying the default screening level $AF_{SG/IA}$ of 0.03 the calculated indoor air concentration is 15.81 µg/m^3. The Benzene concentration exceeds the cancer SLs for residential and commercial/industrial ambient air of 0.097 µg/m^3 and 0.42 µg/m^3 respectively. Benzene also exceeds the noncancer SLs for residential and commercial/industrial ambient air of 3.1 µg/m^3 and 13 µg/m^3 respectively.

   Benzene is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer of the blood and bone marrow such as leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Long-term exposure can also result in anemia, bleeding disorders, immunosuppression, and may also affect the reproductive system and developing fetus. Acute exposure to high levels of benzene can result in dizziness, elevated heart rate, headaches, convulsions, drowsiness, confusion, and death.

d. VC was detected at a maximum concentration 66,000 µg/m^3 during this sampling event. When applying the default screening level attenuation factor for indoor air the predicted ambient indoor air concentration is 1,980 µg/m^3. The VC concentration exceeds the cancer SLs for residential and commercial/industrial ambient air of 0.0095 µg/m^3 and 0.16 µg/m^3 respectively. VC also exceeds the noncancer SLs of 100 µg/m^3 for residential ambient air and 440 µg/m^3 for commercial/industrial ambient air.

   VC is known by the state of California to cause cancer of the liver, brain, and lungs. Chronic exposure can result in permanent liver damage, behavioral and neurologic changes, and damage to the skin and bones of the hand. Acute exposure to high levels of VC can irritate skin, eyes, mucus membranes, and the respiratory tract.

e. Other volatile chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer measured at elevated concentrations in the soil vapor samples include PCE and TCE degradation products (e.g., cis and trans 1,2-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethene). Moreover, TPHg was also measured at concentrations up to 1,140,000 µg/m^3 at one sampling location.

f. The cumulative cancer risk from exposure to chemicals in the indoor air at the concentrations calculated from the maximum detected measurements in the soil gas exceeds the upper limit of the risk management range of 1 x 10^{-4} (or one in 10,000 people).

There is reason to believe that the illegal discharge is likely to cause substantial injury to the public health or safety due to the concentrations of TCE, PCE, Benzene, and Vinyl Chloride.

The potential for high concentrations of TCE to cause fetal cardiac malformations when exposure occurs during a relatively short period of time in the first trimester of pregnancy, gives a particular sense of urgency for action. This is particularly relevant due to the close proximity of residential dwellings surrounding the Site.

If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 578-8179 between 8 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday, or I can be reached by e-mail at Peter.Lee@dtsc.ca.gov.

I hereby certify that I am a designated employee and that I have reported the above information concerning a discharge or threatened discharge of hazardous waste to the appropriate officials pursuant to Section 25180.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

Signed 

Title *Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer*

Date *December 18, 2023*

cc

Melvin Willis
Councilmember District 1
Richmond City Council
melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us