



Griffith Oil March 14, 2002

Introduction

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH), Chemical Hazards Program, reviewed the Griffith Oil Company Public Health Assessment dated March 19, 1999. GDPH routinely evaluates previously assessed sites for any significant changes in data and for adoption of public health recommendations. During this evaluation, all new data and the status of the public health actions for the site were reviewed.

Site Description and History

The Griffith Oil Company is located on 3.87 rural acres, approximately 3 miles southeast of Arcade, Jackson County, Georgia. The property operated as a used oil recycling facility from 1975 until 1991. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) classified the company as a used oil treatment, storage, and disposal facility. It was not permitted to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste on-site.

Environmental Sampling

After a site investigation, GEPD hired a contractor to conduct a removal action on-site. Beginning in spring 1995, four areas were excavated to stabilize soils that had elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons. The removal action was completed in fall 1996.

In March 1997, a groundwater investigation was conducted at the site. A GEPD consultant installed six monitoring wells on site and sampled several private wells off site. Groundwater samples analyzed showed the presence of metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Several private wells, which were sampled in June 1997 by GEPD's consultants and in August 1997 and January 1998 by GEPD, contained hazardous constituents above state and federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

In September 1998, the GDPH's initial public health assessment evaluated the sampling data of the individual water wells located off site. One or more of the following regulated substances: 1,1 dichloroethene, trichloroethene, and/or tetrachloroethene released from the Griffith Oil site was present in five individual wells in the Hidden Oaks subdivision. GDPH concluded that the site posed a public health hazard for residents who had used

their contaminated individual water well for household purposes. As a result, GDPH concurred with GEPD that affected residents should use an alternative water supply.

The most recent activity on site occurred in April 2000. A GEPD contractor disposed of 35, 55-gallon drums of investigative derived waste (IDW). The IDW was generated during the initial groundwater investigation. The drums of soil were emptied onto the existing berm located on site. The empty drums were then stored in a building on the property.

Results

To provide an alternative water supply, the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority obtained a no-interest loan from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and a grant from GEPD to extend public county water lines to residents impacted by the Griffith Oil Company site. In 1999, the local water authority provided public water service to residences near the site along B. Whitefield Road and in the Hidden Oaks subdivision. Additionally, service lines were installed along Georgia Highway 82 south of Arcade, Double Bridges Road, Windy Hill Road, and Shady Lane Court.

To date, all homes in the Hidden Oaks subdivision, except one, are now receiving public water. The local water authority reported that only one homeowner elected not to be connected to the public water supply. No previous water well sampling results were found for that residence.

Conclusions

This site is currently designated as **no apparent public health hazard** because, as can currently be determined, no completed exposure pathways exist. A water sample from the one well that is still in use will determine if contaminants are present in the water that could cause harm.

Recommendations

GEPD should ensure that Griffith Oil Company owners maintain the restrictive access fence in good repair and post "no trespassing" signs.