

Route 111/Rand Avenue Vicinity Investigation Roxana, Illinois

Summary

A benzene release occurred in 1986 resulting from a pipeline break near the intersection of Route 111 and Rand Avenue. Subsequent groundwater sampling indicated increased benzene levels within this vicinity beginning in 2005. In 2006 an additional soil and groundwater investigation was performed to gather information in the area. Further investigative activities are planned.

Background

A benzene release occurred on January 30, 1986, from an underground pipeline at the former Shell Wood River Manufacturing Complex. At the time of the release, benzene product at the surface was recovered to the extent possible. Shortly after the release, the underground pipeline was abandoned in place and a new line was constructed above ground. In 2005, regular groundwater sampling at the now WRB Refining LLC Wood River Refinery (WRR) indicated an increase in the levels of benzene in the vicinity of the WRR west fence line. URS Corporation, on behalf of Shell Oil Products US (SOPUS), conducted a soil and groundwater investigation in 2006 to gather additional information on benzene impacts in the vicinity of the release area. The investigation identified benzene impacts as well as other chemicals generally associated with gasoline and petroleum refining near the former release site.

Groundwater occurs at depths of approximately 40 to 50 feet below the surface. Information obtained during the 2006 investigation and refinery groundwater monitoring indicates that groundwater flows east toward the WRR. The impacted groundwater is potentially located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area.

Next steps that are going to be taken

SOPUS is planning to conduct a subsurface investigation in May and June 2008. The area to be investigated is generally bordered by Route 111 to the west, Sixth Street to the north, and the Wood River Refinery to the east and south. This investigation is being conducted in compliance with, and under the guidance of, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The primary goals of the investigation are to: provide a better understanding of the extent of benzene in groundwater; provide a summary of how and where impacts are expected to move; and develop remedial options as warranted.

Status of area public water wells

No public water wells are located within a reasonable distance to this benzene release. Drinking water for the Village of Roxana is pumped from wells located greater than 1 mile south of this area. Further information can be obtained from contacting the Roxana Water Department at (618) 254-5513. A water well survey is currently being performed to identify public and private wells in the immediate area. No private water wells are known to be present in the area at this time.

Points of Contact

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