
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Aerojet Rocketdyne Superfund Site Update June 2023

Central Valley Water Board staff has prepared this memorandum to provide an update on investigation and remediation activities at the Aerojet Rocketdyne Superfund Site in Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County (Site). Interested parties may obtain additional information by:

- Reviewing case files available on the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker online database (Global ID #SL185992958);
- Contacting Central Valley Water Board project manager Geoff Rader at 916-464-4707 or via email at geoff.rader@waterboards.ca.gov; or
- Attending bi-monthly Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings. Individuals interested in attending CAG meetings should contact Geoff Rader for meeting information.

To manage overall Site investigation and cleanup, the Site has been organized into nine operable units (OUs) based on geographic area and specific releases/problems or cleanup actions. The schedule for submittal of OU-specific milestone documents is presented in Table 5-1 of the 23 December 2022 *Program Plan Modification Report (PPMR) – 2022 Update* (2022 PPMR Update), which is available on GeoTracker. Below is an update on OU-specific activities and site-wide initiatives for June 2023:

1. **OU-3 – Western Groundwater.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) signed the *Record of Decision for the Western Groundwater Operable Unit OU-3* (OU-3 ROD) in July 2001. The remedy selected in the OU-3 ROD is “Alternative 4C: New off-property extraction wells with optimal well placement and with GET E/F extraction wells only”. Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc. (Aerojet) currently operates approximately 32 extraction wells near the western Site property boundary (i.e., the Inner Barrier) and 14 extraction wells west of the Site (i.e., the Outer Barrier) to contain the contaminant plumes and expedite groundwater cleanup. Extracted groundwater is treated at five groundwater extraction and treatment systems (GET EF, GET J, GET HA, GET K, and GET LB) and discharged to surface water. As part of the remedy, Aerojet also monitors groundwater conditions, evaluates plume containment and risk to water supply wells, and implements institutional controls to identify new supply wells in the area and restrict exposure to impacted groundwater. In 2022, Aerojet installed two new OU-3 monitoring well clusters to monitor groundwater conditions near the southwestern corner of the Site. Aerojet does not plan to install additional OU-3 monitoring or extraction wells in 2023.

2. **OU-5 – Perimeter Groundwater.** USEPA signed the *Interim Record of Decision for Groundwater and Final Record of Decision for Soil for the Perimeter Groundwater Operable Unit OU-5* (OU-5 ROD) in February 2011. The remedy selected in the OU-5 ROD is “Groundwater Containment with Mass Removal, Soil Cleanup to Unrestricted Use, and SVE at contaminated soil areas 32D, 34D, 35D and 38D”. Aerojet currently operates approximately 64 extraction wells in OU-5. In December 2022, Aerojet commenced operation of extraction well 4768 to enhance groundwater capture along the northern Site boundary, south of Lake Natoma. Extracted groundwater is treated at four groundwater extraction and treatment systems (GET AB, GET EF, ARGET, and Sailor Bar Park). Similar to OU-3, Aerojet also monitors OU-5 groundwater conditions, evaluates plume containment and risk to supply wells, and implements institutional controls to identify any new supply wells and restrict exposure to impacted groundwater. From November 2022 to April 2023, Aerojet installed one monitoring well cluster and two additional monitoring wells along the southern Site boundary. Aerojet does not plan to install additional OU-5 monitoring wells in 2023.

Aerojet has completed all of the OU-5 ROD-required soil excavation remedies. Additionally, Aerojet completed the soil vapor extraction (SVE) portion of the OU-5 remedy in 2021 with the completion of the 49000 Area SVE remedy. Aerojet continues to work with the regulatory agencies to prepare and execute the required covenants and restrictions for the OU-5 soil areas.

In December 2021, Aerojet executed land use covenants for the 49000 Area, then sold the property to a development company. The developer is currently implementing the redevelopment plan, which includes construction of five warehouses and four stormwater detention basins, with land use covenant oversight provided by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Aerojet is also continuing preparation for the clean closure of the previously closed Aerojet Landfill, located in the northeastern portion of the Site, to facilitate development in this area.

3. **OU-6 – Boundary.** USEPA signed the *Record of Decision for the Boundary Operable Unit OU-6* (OU-6 ROD) in August 2015. The remedy selected in the OU-6 ROD consists of institutional controls, engineering controls, and source removal/reduction (excavation and SVE). Aerojet recently completed a series of pre-design investigations to determine the extent of contamination at OU-6. Aerojet has also been conducting remedial planning efforts with the intent of commencing OU-6 remediation activities in 2023 or 2024.
4. **OU-7 – Island.** Aerojet has completed a Draft Final Remedial Investigation and Draft Risk Assessment for OU-7. Completion of the Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will follow the schedule presented in Table 5-1 of the 2022 PPMR Update.

5. **OU-10 – Area 40.** To accommodate the City of Folsom's timeline for developing this area, in 2018, the regulatory agencies agreed to separate this area out of OU-7, identify the area as a new OU (OU-10), and transfer lead oversight authority for remedy selection and implementation from the USEPA to the DTSC. The 27 August 2018 *Final Remedial Action Plan Area 40, OU-10* (OU-10 RAP) selected a remedy consisting of, among other things:

- Installation of a permeable reactive barrier to treat contaminated groundwater (completed September through November 2020);
- Multiple excavations to remove contaminated soil (completed September 2019 through July 2020); and
- Continued operation of GET AB, which is located downgradient of OU-10 (ongoing).

In March 2023, Aerojet also conducted contingent in-situ chemical reduction injections to expedite groundwater cleanup, consistent with the OU-10 RAP. Aerojet continues to monitor groundwater, soil vapor, and ambient air conditions at OU-10 to evaluate remedy effectiveness and progress towards cleanup goals. Aerojet is also working with the regulatory agencies to prepare and execute the required covenants and restrictions for OU-10.

6. **Site-Wide Vapor Intrusion Assessment.** Aerojet initiated the Site-wide vapor intrusion investigation program in 2016. In 2017/2018, Aerojet relocated its manufacturing operations outside of California, resulting in the closure of most buildings at the Site. Aerojet continues to conduct indoor air sampling at occupied buildings on a quarterly to triennial frequency. In addition to indoor air testing, Aerojet conducts routine HVAC system inspections, monitors existing mitigation measures, and tracks changes in building occupancy that might affect the indoor air testing schedule.

Note: OU-4 – Area 41 Soil and Groundwater, OU-8 – Eastern, and OU-9 – Central are in the early phases of planning/investigation because, in the early 2000's, Aerojet and the regulatory agencies agreed that these OUs were lower priority than the OUs discussed above. Investigation activities at OU-4, OU-8, and OU-9 will follow the schedule presented in Table 5-1 of the 2022 PPMR Update.