

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400



Tu11b

December 17, 1999

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Jaime C. Kooser, Deputy Director
Alison J. Dettmer, Manager, Energy and Ocean Resources Unit
Dan Chia, Coastal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: **Guadalupe Oil Field Spill Remediation Status Report – January 2000**

Staff Note:

This status report provides an account of abandonment and cleanup activities occurring at the Guadalupe site for the period November 16 – December 10, 1999. Some of these are ongoing activities authorized under San Luis Obispo CDP/DP D870558D, and others began following Coastal Commission approval of CDP No. E-99-009 on November 3, 1999.

SITE ACTIVITIES, NOVEMBER 16-DECEMBER 10, 1999

Activities Occurring in the Coastal Commission's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction

- Unocal contractors began working six 10-hour days per week.
- By Monday, December 6, all of the overburden material had been removed from Cell 1 of 5X West.
- Excavation activities began at Cell 1 of 5X West. Unocal hopes to remove and transport approximately 6,000 to 7,000 cubic yards of affected material per day.
- Excavation of 5X below groundwater began near the northeast corner on Friday with approval from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
- On December 11, the sheetpile wall installation along the western edge of the 5X site was completed, allowing Unocal to proceed westward within the excavation.
- With approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Unocal is using one-inch netting to cover any open water within the 5X excavation at night. The netting will be installed and removed by hand at the end and beginning of each workday.

- Before the excavation of 5X West began, diluent-contaminated sand was discovered during the removal of the clean overburden on the eastern edge of Cell 2 at approximately 17 feet above mean sea level (msl). Approximately 600 cubic yards of contaminated material was hauled to the TB8 stockpile area.
- Unocal installed eight extraction wells along the eastern edge of the 5X West site, immediately east of the sheetpile wall location. Contaminated material was brought to the surface during this operation and transported to the TB 8 contaminated stockpile area.
- Unocal requested and received agency approval for the enlargement of the Cell 2 clean overburden stockpile to extend north of the existing fenceline.
- A Baker tank and desanding equipment were mobilized to the 5X Site this week in preparation for dredging.
- On Monday, November 22, 1999, Unocal began and completed the excavation of the LeRoy 3 sump, removing to TB9 approximately 1,400 cubic yards of contaminated material. The RWQCB authorized the backfilling of this site, which occurred on Tuesday, November 24.
- On Saturday December 4, Unocal contractors completed the installation of power poles, transformer and lines down to the 5X site.
- Unocal requires approximately 1,000 cubic yards of red rock material to complete the A Road widening and A Road turnaround. Unocal identified site A8 as a suitable location for mining red rock for road base. This determination was made after surveys indicated that the red rock was uncontaminated and excavation activities would not impact sensitive biological resources.
- Unocal has proposed to collect soil samples from several known sump features--including D14, TB4, and B11 in the Commission's jurisdiction--throughout the site for the mediation group. These activities will involve the use of a backhoe and CPT-type sampling rig to sample subsurface soils along established transects at each proposed sump location. Several of the sump locations will require access and disturbance to wetlands. Unocal has submitted a work plan to the appropriate agencies for approval.

Activities Occurring in San Luis Obispo County's Coastal Permit Jurisdiction

- Unocal's monitors (BFJ) began collecting water samples at twelve sampling stations on the beach, Santa Maria River, and marsh ponds.
- On Sunday, November 21 a dead gray whale washed up on the beach in front of the LeRoy 6 site. The Marine Mammal Center and CDFG were contacted and representatives from the Marine Mammal Center came out to the site, inspected the whale, and collected samples. The whale was dragged up to the high water mark and buried approximately eight feet deep.
- Unocal botanical monitors were present as needed to monitor activities at the 5X and A Road widening sites. Unocal's wildlife monitors visited the site each morning to inspect access routes prior to construction personnel entering the work areas.
- Wildlife biologists continue to survey the TB8 and TB9 retention ponds during two nighttime red-legged frog surveys per week.
- Unocal has submitted an interim revegetation plan for the 8X Site requesting the relevant agencies to authorize the replacement of topsoil at the site. Unocal has proposed using jute

netting to stabilize the topsoil. In the mean time, Unocal has temporarily covered the vegetated topsoil with plastic to protect it from wind erosion.

- On December 7, Unocal contractors (McNabb Construction) began pipeline abandonment activities (removal of insulation from pipe and hot-tapping lines) at the C8 area in preparation for upcoming remediation activities onsite. Quantitative botanical surveys have also been performed at this site in preparation for excavation in February.

