

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

Project Title: ISBR Pilot Test – Former Valley Foundry and Machine Works

Project Location: 2510 South East Avenue, Fresno, California 93717

County: Fresno

Project Applicant: AMETEK, Inc.

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Pilot Test Workplan and Addendum

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, Division 45

Project Description: The project consists of implementing an In-Situ Bioremediation (ISBR) Pilot Test Workplan and Addendum to investigate whether in-situ bioremediation can be utilized to remediate Trichlorofluoromethane (Freon 11) contamination in groundwater at a former industrial manufacturing site located at 2150 South East Avenue in Fresno, California (Site). Implementation includes Freon 11 delineation, monitoring and injection well installations, ISBR injection, and groundwater performance monitoring. If the pilot test is successful, a subsequent cleanup plan incorporating ISBR will be prepared for the Site.

Project Site: The Site is located in an area of industrial/commercial development in the city of Fresno near the intersection of East Avenue and Golden State Boulevard and encompasses approximately 47 acres. The Site is subdivided into 14 parcels used for commercial and light manufacturing. The Site is generally flat with little topographic relief. The southern portion of the Site is fully developed and mostly paved. The northern portion is partially developed with streets and utilities in place. Per information in the ISBR Pilot Test, there are no known water supply wells or irrigation wells currently located on, or in the immediate vicinity, of the site. The Site is serviced by the City of Fresno for municipal water supply, storm sewers, and sanitary sewers.

Background: In 1949, Valley Foundry developed the Site for use in manufacturing and repairing wine-making equipment. Valley Foundry's site operations continued from 1949 through 1969, at which time the site was acquired by AMETEK (the primary responsible party, or "RP"), who operated at the Site from 1969 through 1995. AMETEK initially used the site to produce wine-making equipment. From 1986 through 1991, AMETEK's

operations consisted of the production of polypropylene foam packaging materials, with operations shifting to only handling packaging materials from 1991 through 1995. AMETEK sold the site in 1997 when it consisted of two parcels. The northern parcel was subdivided into a business park consisting of 11 parcels, most of which have been sold to relatively small businesses for commercial purposes. The southern parcel was divided into three parcels and has been used for commercial and light manufacturing.

In 2005, a soil and groundwater investigation conducted as part of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) was completed for the Site in response to DTSC's request to evaluate potential releases of specific hazardous substances. Site records indicated that the only constituents of potential concern (COPCs) used at the site were Freon 11 and tetrafluoromethane (Freon 114). For the PEA, DTSC requested the assessment of additional volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including, trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride, and foundry-sand-related compounds (e.g., lead, total chromium, and hexavalent chromium). The results of the PEA and subsequent additional investigations indicated that the primary COPC released at the Site was Freon 11.

Project Activities: The ISBR Pilot Test will address a treatment area of approximately 1,300 square feet at a depth of approximately 90 to 100 feet below ground surface (bgs) within the aquifer below the Site. Testing will require installation of eight monitoring wells and one injection well to further delineate the lateral extent and vertical distribution of Freon 11 impacts in groundwater. The injection well will be used for in-situ bioremediation injections. For each well, an approximate 9-inch borehole will be advanced using sonic drilling methods to a depth of 145 feet bgs for the monitoring and injection wells. During drilling, soil will be continuously collected and logged. The bottom 35 feet of each monitoring well boring and bottom 40 feet of the injection well boring will be backfilled with bentonite pellets. The injection well will be installed with 4-inch diameter Schedule 80 polyvinyl chlorinated (PVC) pipe, and the monitoring wells will be installed with 2-inch or 4-inch diameter Schedule 40 PVC pipe. The pilot test will also entail utilization of ten (10) existing monitoring wells at the Site.

Implementation of the ISBR Pilot Test will involve injecting a reagent (soluble sulfate, ferrous iron, and carbon substrate) and an emulsified organic carbon substrate into the aquifer below the site. Field staff will augment the reagent with bacterial inoculants, which will be applied to the injection well to augment the microbial degradation of Freon 11. Cellular respiration of certain microbial species, upon reactions with Freon 11 and other VOCs, would result in inert end products (specifically, fluoride, chloride, ethene, ethane, carbon dioxide, and/or methane).

The ISBR Pilot Test includes groundwater performance monitoring. Pre-injection (baseline) and post-injection groundwater performance monitoring will be conducted to

evaluate the radius of influence (ROI) and remediation performance of ISBR injections. Documentation and evaluation of these results will be included in a completion report.

Well installations will be carried out using heavy equipment and vehicles such as a drill rig, support box truck, and well-development truck. The pilot test will require a one-ton pickup truck and trailer equipped with mixing tanks and pumps and a groundwater sampling truck for the groundwater performance monitoring. Truck trips associated with the ISBR Pilot Test Work Plan activities will be relatively limited, consisting of approximately 30 round trips associated with delivery of equipment and the ISBR amendment solution. The remediation activities would also require approximately 20 total round trips for workers.

It is anticipated that installation of the injection well and eight monitoring wells will be completed within approximately two to four months after approving the Workplan Addendum. Field activities will be conducted during the hours of 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The ISBR Pilot Test, including groundwater performance monitoring, will be completed within approximately seven to ten months after the well installations are completed.

Prior to implementing field investigation activities, the RP will secure drilling permits from the City of Fresno Public Utilities Department and property owner access agreements. The RP has filed with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) a notice of intent to comply with General Order No. R5-2015-0012 for in-situ remediation of groundwater. Prior to conducting the planned injections, the RP will submit an Underground Injection Control notification to the USEPA and acquire a Notice of Applicability from the RWQCB stating that the project meets the required conditions to be covered under General Order No. R5-2015-0012.

If the subject pilot test is sufficiently effective in remediating groundwater, then a subsequent remedy selection document will follow. This document will be subject to DTSC review and approval, and it will also require environmental review in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: AMETEK, Inc.

Exempt Status: General Rule Review from Exemption [CCR Title 14, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

In determining the applicability of CEQA, section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines provides that activities are covered by the “general rule” or “common sense” exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Per this section, “where it can be seen with certainty that

there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

The subject Site, which appears on DTSC’s EnviroStor website as a State Response site, is on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 (also known as the “Cortese List”). Under CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(d), such sites are not considered eligible for CEQA categorical exemptions identified in CEQA Guidelines section 15000 et seq. However, as part of demonstrating how the project meets the criteria of 15061(b)(3), it is illustrative to reference project classes which under 15300 et seq. are generally determined not to have a significant effect on the environment, including the following: Class 6 – Information Collection; Class 8 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment; and Class 30 – Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances. The activities involved in the subject ISBR Pilot Test Work Plan are consistent with the types of activities characterized in the three aforementioned classes of categorical exemptions. There are also no scenic highways, historical resources, or other conditions at or near the Site which would contribute to a heightened risk of potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project. Additionally, the environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval will prevent unusual circumstances from occurring so that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. Further, the project will not result in cumulative impacts because it is designed to be short-term and investigative in nature and would not lead to a succession of projects of the same type in the same place over time.

The Site appears on the Cortese List as a result of prior regulatory action taken by DTSC, and the subject project is specifically targeted at addressing the conditions which resulted in the Site being listed in the first place. Due to the inherently remedial nature of the pilot test and the fundamental involvement of DTSC in the proposed pilot test’s implementation, the subject project does not pose the kind of direct or indirect risks of significant environmental impacts that might otherwise occur on a Cortese List site. As discussed, the physical characteristics of the subject project are relatively limited. Additionally, oversight of the ISBR Pilot Test Work Plan by DTSC (as well as by the RWQCB) will ensure consistency with applicable state and local environmental permitting requirements. Further, this oversight will function to ensure that any risks involving migration of contaminants, water quality, or other such effects will either not occur or not amount to a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Given the physical characteristics of the proposed project activities, the environmental setting in which the project would occur, and the oversight under which the pilot test would be conducted, it can be clearly demonstrated that any effects of the project will

not be of a degree resulting in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, the project meets the criteria of CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=10390001

Contact Person:
Stuart St. Clair

Contact Title:
Project Manager

Phone Number:
(559) 297-3905

Approver's Signature:

Date:



September 27, 2024

Approver's Name:
Steven Becker

Title;
Branch Chief

Approver's Phone Number:
(916) 869-5059

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: