

Botany Site Groundwater Remediation Program

Updated 14/07/2022

Summary

In 2017, Allnex engaged AECOM an environmental consulting company to conduct a series of environmental works targeting primarily the area beneath the active manufacturing operations of the Beckamine and Emulsion Plants (the “source area”). The purpose of these works is to define a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) to remediate a groundwater contaminated plume moving south from the source area. Between 2017 and 2020, various remediation, monitoring and investigation tasks were completed. The next step for this program involves the injection of air into the local aquifer, which will accelerate the natural contaminant biodegradation processes already taking place in the area.

This air injection commenced in April 2021 after the installation of the air injection system. The system consists of an air blower, a cooler, process instruments measuring flow, pressure and temperature, valves to control the flow and pressure and to direct the air into one of three sections of the aquifer, and an automated control and data recording system.

Measurements and samples were taken from the ground water monitoring wells prior to the start of air injection. Similar measurements and samples have been taken periodically to determine the effectiveness of the process.

Current Status

The results from the measurements and samples taken after 12 months of air injection indicate a significant reduction in the contamination levels in the ground water in the source area.

Injection will continue with the aim of reducing the contamination levels further to meet the objectives set out in the RAP.



Photo 1: Blower, cooler, control cabinet and piping.



Photo 2: Valves directing air to the three sections of the aquifer.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Will hazardous chemicals be used?
 - No. Ambient air will be used as the amendment for the biodegradation process.
- 2) Other questions? If you have a more specific question or would like to lodge a safety observation or complaint, please use the newly added **Botany Site Groundwater Remediation Program** link added to the Allnex website (under <https://allnex.com/en/info-hub/compliance>)².

Did you know? In 2003, the NSW Government placed an embargo on subsurface groundwater licences for the Botany Bay area under Section 113A of the Water Act 1912. This order relates to all groundwater extraction (with the exception of extraction for dewatering of construction sites), monitoring and testing or works associated with groundwater remediation. As such, direct contact (ingestion and dermal contact) with groundwater is not considered to be a risk to local human and ecological receptors.

¹ The same information is also presented in the **Botany, NSW, Australia – Environmental Reporting Information** box, which can be accessed by searching for the key word “Botany” in the Allnex.com home page search tool and then a) selecting the listed result “Compliance”; or b) selecting the listed result “Allnex Resins Australia Pty Limited”. This will open a new pop-up window with Botany contacts, including a link to the mentioned information box.

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