

0. PG&E POISONS THE GROUNDWATER - Story Preface

1. STORY PREFACE

2. DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN THE MOJAVE

3. MISLEADING STATEMENTS

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5. THE COMPRESSOR STATION

6. TONS OF CHROME 6

7. PG&E POISONS THE GROUNDWATER

8. DECEPTION REIGNS

9. SEVENTY-SEVEN PLAINTIFFS SUE

10. THE BATTLE

11. PG&E IS IN TROUBLE

12. TRIAL & SETTLEMENT

What happened to the chrome 6 once it was discharged to the unlined ponds or sprayed onto the soil? Following the normal process of nature, called the "hydrologic cycle," the toxic material (now called "the plume") was free to travel from where it was (in the ponds) to where it should never have gone (to the groundwater).

Once it was in the aquifer that supplied Hinkley residents with all their water, nothing stopped the toxic material from getting into the peoples' wells. Wherever the plume traveled, the corresponding wells in its path were contaminated.

When PG&E knew the levels of chromium 6 were high, how did the company interact with the citizens of Hinkley? What did they tell them about:

- Swimming in their pools?
- Bathing in their homes?
- Watering their animals and plants?

Knowing full well how much chrome 6 the company had used for so many decades, PG&E told neighbors of the plant to

...avoid drinking your well water, but it is safe to use for all other domestic purposes such as bathing and watering animals and plants.

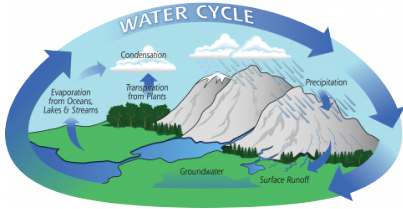
It is difficult to comprehend how anyone could have made such a statement in light of the facts.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PG-E-POISONS-THE-GROUNDWATER-Brockovich-Erin>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PG-E-POISONS-THE-GROUNDWATER-Brockovich-Erin>

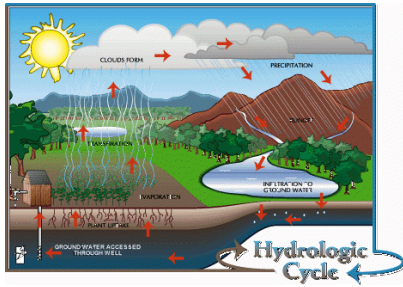


Hydrologic Cycle

Image online, courtesy NASA.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hydrologic-Cycle>



Groundwater and the Hydrologic Cycle

Image, described above, from the EPA. Image online, courtesy EPA.

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