

**Fact Sheet
June 2003**

**THE PACIFIC STATES STEEL
CORPORATION SITE**



Union City, California

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Current View of Pacific States Steel Corp.

CLEANUP ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this Fact Sheet to inform you about cleanup activities in the coming months that will be taking place at the Pacific States Steel Corporation (PSSC) site located on Alvarado-Niles Road in Union City, California.

Cleanup is expected to begin in late June, 2003 and will occur in two phases. Each phase of work will focus on different parts of the 61-acre site. Phase I work will focus primarily on the southern half of the PSSC site, and Phase II work will focus on the northern half. DTSC will ensure that the cleanup is protective of human health and the environment, and complies with federal, state and local requirements. The work is expected to take approximately 18 months, from the beginning of the Phase I until the completion and certification of Phase II activities. Details of the cleanup efforts that will be occurring at the PSSC site can be found on the following pages of this Fact Sheet.

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SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

The site is located in the southeastern portion of Union City, California, at the border with Fremont and is approximately 61 acres in size. PSSC is bordered by a flood control channel and [PG&E's Decoto Pipeyard](#) to the north, BART and railroad tracks and Alvarado-Niles Road to the west, the Fremont-Union City boundary and residences to the south, and railroad tracks, residences, and commercial/ industrial facilities to the east.

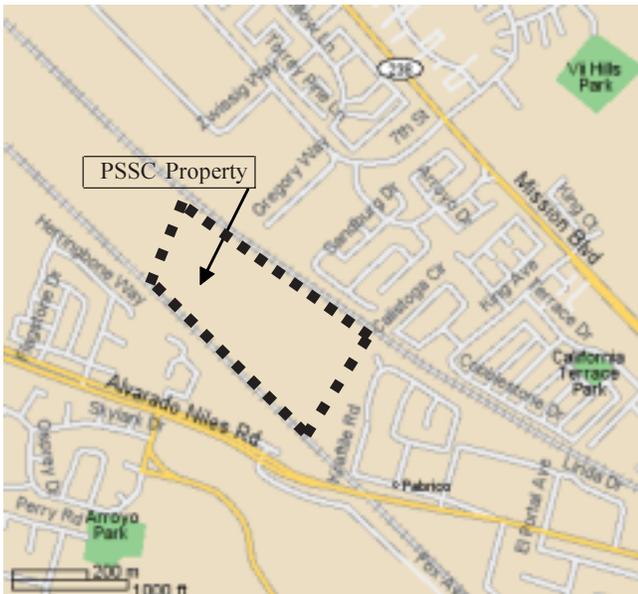


Figure 1: Site Location

The site was home to a brickmaking operation from 1908 to 1937. Clay, the primary raw material for the bricks, was mined at the site. PSSC operated a steel mill at the site from 1938 to 1978. Slag and other metal-containing wastes were generated from the steel-making process and were disposed on the site. Slag that remains on the site contains the metals cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, and arsenic. Bunker oil, a residual from the refining of crude oil, was used on the site and there are some areas contaminated with this and other petroleum products. A variety of businesses leased portions of the site between 1977 and 1987. One of the lessees stored and processed transformers, resulting in polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination of soil in a small area. PCBs are listed as a cancer-causing agent under [Proposition 65](#).

Overseers appointed by the U.S. District Court have been handling the obligations for the defunct Pacific States Steel Corporation since 1984, including its obligations for environmental cleanup. The Court administrative objectives include remediation of the site and redevelopment so funds can be generated to pay for the pension benefits of the former steelworkers.

CURRENT CONDITIONS



The property is currently abandoned and mostly covered with overgrown vegetation, stockpiles of slag, and debris. A large cooling water pond that was once part of the steel plant's operations is located near the center of the property. Concrete structures and foundations are located throughout the site. An unpaved access road encircles the site. Figure 2 on page 3 highlights the areas of contamination at the site and the current site layout.

REGULATORY INVOLVEMENT

DTSC has been the lead agency overseeing the investigation and cleanup of hazardous substances releases at the site since 1988. The Alameda County Water District and the City of Union City, Environmental Programs Division (Union City), are currently support agencies in the cleanup effort.



FUTURE USES FOR THE PROPERTY

The southern portion of the site will be completed first and is targeted for the end of 2003. Construction of single-family homes is to proceed on the southern portion after DTSC certifies the cleanup of this area.

Slag and other waste materials will be consolidated and capped on a 14-acre area on the northwestern portion of the site. The cap's height will extend approximately 25 feet above the existing ground surface. The capped area is zoned for commercial/industrial development. The remainder of the northern portion of the site will be developed as a multi-family residential area, with the future Eleventh Street extension bisecting the northern half of the PSSC site in a north-south direction. In addition, the Alameda County Transportation Authority has plans to construct an extension of Route 84 which would bisect the PSSC Site in an east-west

direction. Eleventh Street would eventually connect to Route 84. Figure 3 below provides a diagram of the future development at the PSSC Site.

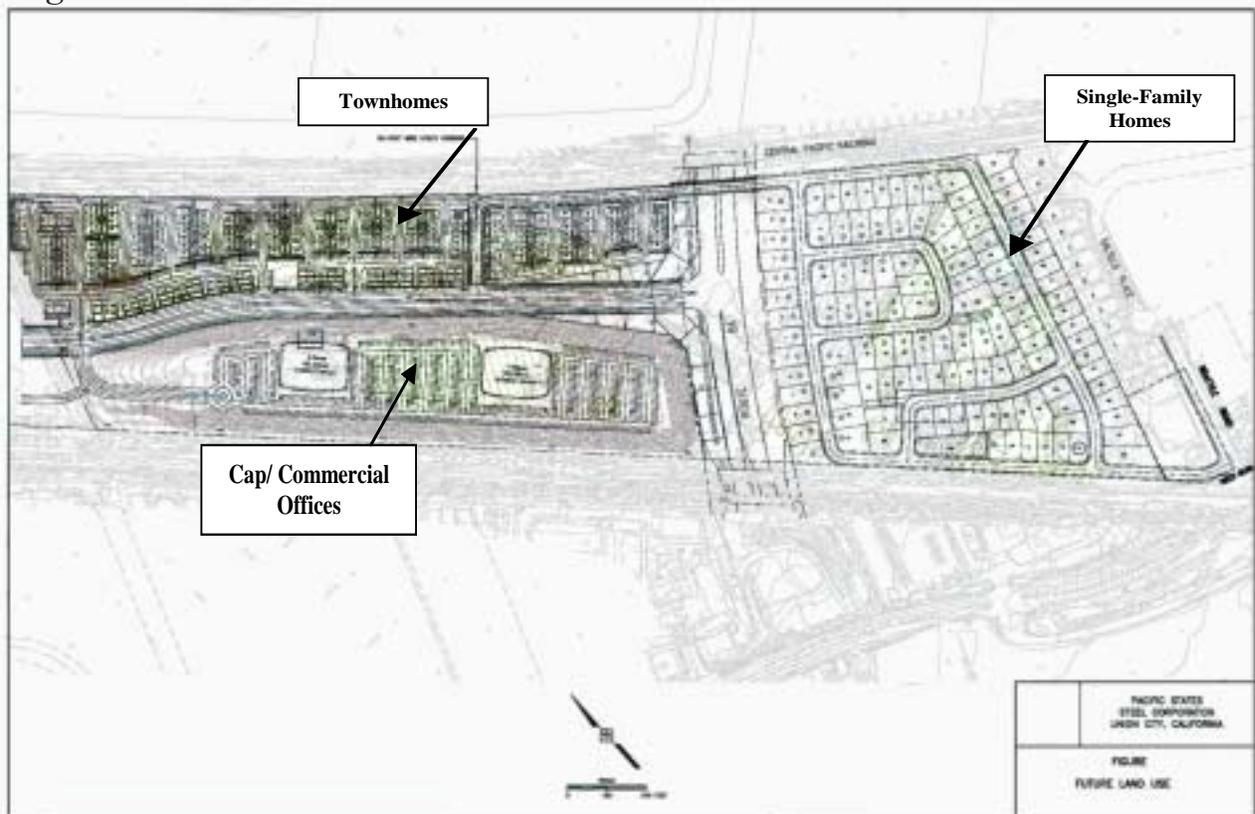
MEASURES TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY

Dust Control and Monitoring

All activities will be conducted to limit the generation of dust and particulate emissions. Water trucks will be present to control dust that may be generated by demolition, excavation, hauling, and placement activities.

Dust monitoring will be performed using both visual inspection and real-time sampling instruments. Air will be monitored for dust and particulate material, metals, PCBs, and other chemicals during cleanup activities at the site. A network of monitoring instruments will be strategically located within the PSSC property. In the event that dust appears to be a problem, corrective measures will be implemented including increasing watering frequency, applying stabilizers, and covering open piles of soil, if necessary.

Figure 3: Future Land Use



Traffic Control and Road Maintenance

Trucks coming to the site will travel from Interstate 880 via Decoto Road. Trucks leaving the site will travel from Decoto Road east to Mission Boulevard. From Mission Boulevard trucks will proceed north to Industrial Parkway in Hayward, and from Industrial Parkway west to Interstate 880. Trucks will use the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) right-of-way to travel between Decoto Road and the site.

All trucks will be making right turns into and leaving the entrance to the UP right-of-way along Decoto Road. Trucks will be able to make right turns without the need for a lane closure. On days with a larger amount of truck traffic, the far right lane will be closed to aid in getting trucks in and out. A dedicated flag person will be present at the site. This flag person will operate the Decoto Road gate entrance and monitor traffic entering or leaving the site.

Crushed rock will be placed over a 50-foot long section of the haul route at the point where trucks will exit the site. The crushed rock is intended to

remove materials from the truck tires before trucks leave the site. Trucks carrying material from the site will be covered and decontaminated by pressure washing prior to leaving.

Noise Abatement

PSSC will take sound measurements during daytime activities to ensure that sound levels during the day do not exceed Union City sound requirements, as outlined in the city sound ordinance. In addition to sound monitoring and decibel readings, PSSC will make every effort to minimize noise.

Explosive charges will be used at the Site to demolish concrete foundations and structures. The demolition contractor will follow all federal, state, and local regulations during the use of charges, and DTSC will work with the contractor to minimize possible disturbances to surrounding homes and businesses. The City of Union City will need to approve a demolition plan for the Site before explosives are employed.

Workers will be present at the site Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

DTSC is coordinating all cleanup efforts with the City of Union City to minimize disruption to area residents and students of nearby schools.

To insure a safe and smooth operation:

- Soil stored onsite will be covered and secured, or a dust suppressant will be applied to the soil to prevent dust generation.
- Trucks bringing and removing materials will travel along approved truck routes. All trucks will access the site from Decoto Road. Trucks carrying material off the Site will be covered.
- As the site undergoes cleanup, water will be sprayed as necessary to minimize the generation of dust. Decoto Road is currently on the Union City weekly street cleaning route. In, addition Pacific States Steel will provide street cleaning as needed. Trucks carrying material off the Site will be decontaminated by pressure washing prior to leaving.
- Air will be monitored for dust and particulate materials, metals, PCBs, and other chemicals during cleanup activities at the Site.

**Inside: Pacific States Steel Corporation
Work to Begin in Late June**

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200



Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Homayune Atiqee, DTSC Project Manager (510) 540-3838 or Hatiqee@dtsc.ca.gov
- Lora Barrett, DTSC Public Participation Specialist toll-free at (866) 495-5651 or Lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov
- For media questions please contact DTSC Public Information Officer, Angela Blanchette, at (510) 540-3732 or Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

This Fact Sheet and the supporting documentation, which are part of the Administrative Record for the Site, as well as other documents relating to the Pacific States Steel Corporation Site are available for public review at the following locations:

City of Union City Library
34007 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, California 94587-4498
(510) 745-1464

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Pacific States Steel Corporation Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Lora Barrett at (866)495-5651.