



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ON A REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY /
REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN FOR THE
FORMER MOJAVE GUNNERY RANGE C
February 29, 2008 to April 1, 2008**



From February 29, 2008 to April 1, 2008, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is holding a public comment period to accept comments on a *draft Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study / Removal Action Workplan* (referred to as a draft RI/FS/RAW) and a supporting document known as a *proposed Negative Declaration* for the Former Mojave Gunnery Range C. The proposed project outlined in the draft RI/FS/RAW focuses on how the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) will search the site to determine where munitions and unexploded ordnance were used. It also proposes methods to handle and dispose of any immediately threatening munitions and unexploded ordnance that are encountered, and, finally, how non-threatening munitions and ordnance will be handled in future cleanup of the site. The proposed Negative Declaration addresses how the proposed project will impact the environment.

The site is approximately 21,750 acres in size and is located in Kern County, approximately 4 miles east of Mojave, California and southwest corner of California City, California. The Army Corps, through the RI/FS/RAW work, proposes how to locate munitions and unexploded ordnance left behind on the site.

DTSC, the state regulatory agency that oversees cleanup of hazardous waste in California, must evaluate the environmental effects of the draft RI/FS/RAW under the state law known as the California Environmental Quality Act (commonly referred to as CEQA). Under CEQA, DTSC has determined that these activities will not have significant effects on the environment. DTSC has proposed that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for the proposed project. The CEQA Negative Declaration states that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment given the activities outlined in the draft RI/FS/RAW.

The draft RI/FS/RAW addresses the issue of locating munitions and unexploded ordnance by making the following proposals:

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

- Search for metal objects below the surface of the site using a surface-towed instrument
- Determine if items detected below the surface are potentially explosive
- Determine areas of high concentration of surface and subsurface anomalies
- Determine options to address the areas of high anomaly concentrations

Removal Action Workplan

Explosive Items Not Safe to Move

The only safe alternative to address ordnance is to destroy them in-place. This will be done by attaching small explosive charges to the item and detonating them. Depending upon the size, location, and how far down in the soil the explosive is, sandbags may be stacked around and over the item to help contain shrapnel and noise.

Explosive Items Safe to Move

Items that can safely be removed will be transported to a secure explosives storage building where they will be held until the Army Corps can properly dispose of the ordnance items.

Uncontaminated Scrap Metal

Any items that are deemed uncontaminated will be collected and transported to an offsite metal recycling facility.

This proposed project is not considered the final cleanup of the site. Information obtained will enable DTSC and the Army Corps to work together in determining the best way to effectively clean-up those areas in the future.

All written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than April 1, 2008, and should be sent to the attention of Mr. Ed Walker, DTSC Project Manager, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826-3200, (916) 255-4988, EWalker@dtsc.ca.gov.

The draft RI/FS/RAW and related documents are available for review at <http://www.mgrc-mmrp.org/index.asp>. Additionally the draft RI/FS/RAW, Negative Declaration, and related documents will be available at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/OMF/Projects/Mojave_Gunnery.cfm.

The full administrative record and files pertaining to this matter are also available for public review at the Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826-3200, EWalker@dtsc.ca.gov. Please contact Mr. Walker if you would like to review the administrative record.

Questions on the draft RI/FS/RAW and proposed Negative Declaration should be directed to Mr. Walker or Mr. Nathan Schumacher, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826-3200, toll free at (866) 495-5651, or (916) 255-3650, NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be directed to Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, (818) 717-6573, JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding the former Mojave Gunnery Range C.