

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Draft Interim Measures Workplan for Hixson Metal Finishing in Newport Beach is Available for Public Review & Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to provide information to the community about a draft cleanup plan to address contaminated soil at the Hixson Metal Finishing facility (Hixson) located at 817-853 Production Place and resulting soil-vapor that may impact a neighboring Apartment complex, Newport Villa Apartments (Apartments) located at 1549 Placentia Avenue in Newport Beach. The draft cleanup plan called an Interim Measures (IM) Workplan was developed to mitigate potential for health and safety risks to people working at the Hixson site and residents of the Apartments. The draft IM Workplan describes in detail the environmental investigation conducted, findings, and proposed interim remedy to address soil contaminated with chlorinated solvents. The draft IM is an interim measure and is not the final cleanup plan for the facility. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Exemption (NOE) is proposed, as the proposed remedial activities will not have a significant effect on public health and the environment.

DTSC regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in California. DTSC is the lead regulatory agency for approval of the draft IM Workplan. This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup is Necessary
- Site History
- Site Investigation & Results
- Proposed Cleanup Plan (draft IM Workplan)
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Where To Find Site Documents & Next Steps

Why Cleanup is Necessary

DTSC determined there are chemicals present in soil vapor at the Hixson site that are above DTSC's protective standards. Therefore, cleanup is necessary to control the migration of chemicals into adjacent areas and reduce or eliminate the potential health risk to workers at the Hixson facility and residents at the Apartments to acceptable levels. DTSC will oversee the proposed remedial activities and ensure that they are performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Public Comment Period



December 13th, 2013 – January 13th, 2014

A **32-day public comment period** is being held to accept public comments on the draft Interim Measures (IM) Workplan. **All public comments must be post-marked or e-mailed by January 13th, 2014, and sent to:**

Irena Edwards
DTSC Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will consider and respond to public comments before a final decision is made.

Project documents are available for public review at the Information Repository locations listed inside this Fact Sheet on page 2.



Site History

Hixson is an active operating facility of about 1.75 acres and has operated at this location since 1962. Other residential and industrial properties are located near the site. Hixson operations include industrial buildings, located at 817, 829, 835, 847, and 853 Production Place. Operation and storage of chemicals continue on-site. Hixson operates a variety of plating and anodizing tank lines, spray booths and ovens. Chrome plating operations ceased after a fire in 1995 and solvent degreasing was eliminated at the site in January 2001. At some point in the past, Chemicals known as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), including Perchloroethylene (PCE) and Trichloroethene (TCE) came into contact with soil and groundwater at the site. This draft IM is an interim remedy to address the impacted soil.

Site Investigation and Results

Soil – Subsurface investigations have been conducted and identified VOCs, including PCE and TCE in soil. Heavy metals contamination is only in a limited area in soil below the plating room floor.

Groundwater – Site groundwater investigations also identified VOC, PCE, TCE in groundwater. Groundwater is located about 50 feet below the ground surface and is **not** a source of drinking water.

Groundwater Monitoring – Semi-annual groundwater monitoring will continue at the facility. Remediation of groundwater, if necessary, may need to be continued beyond the term of soil and soil vapor remediation to reach levels required by DTSC. Other in-ground technologies are available and can be added if needed, but will be addressed in a separate workplan.

Proposed Cleanup Plan – draft IM Workplan

The proposed cleanup plan includes the installation and operation of a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system designed to extract and treat VOCs from soil beneath the Hixson facility and Apartments. SVE is a proven technology that is effective at removing VOCs from soil. Based on pilot test results conducted at the Hixson facility, the SVE system is capable of reducing VOC levels in soil to levels protective of human health. The SVE system is permitted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District according to the local air pollution control regulations. A single SVE system will address both on-site and off-site impacts. The above ground components of the SVE system are located inside a warehouse at the Hixson facility to reduce the noise. DTSC will monitor the effectiveness of the SVE system

and adjust the system as needed. The SVE system will operate continuously or intermittently as needed to maximize the efficiency of the cleanup until DTSC's cleanup goals for the site are met. DTSC oversees cleanup activities and ensures they are performed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is a State law that requires a project's lead agency to consider and disclose potential adverse environmental impacts of its proposed actions before approving them. DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states the proposed interim cleanup activities (digging, excavating, installation and monitoring) will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment.

Where To Find Site Documents

Copies of the draft IM Workplan, CEQA NOE and related project documents are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

Mariners Library
2005 Dover Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660-4422
(949) 717-3838
Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm
Friday & Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm
Sunday: 12 pm – 5 pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337 - Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the above number to make an appointment.

Site documents are also available for review at: www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for public use.

How To Participate and Submit Your Comments

DTSC encourages you to review the draft IM Workplan and related documents. **The 30-day public comment period for the draft IM Workplan begins December 13th, 2013 and ends January 13th, 2014. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by January 13th, 2014, and sent to:**

Irena Edwards, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov

Whom to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the project, draft IM Workplan, CEQA NOE, or other project related activities please contact the following DTSC staff:

Irena Edwards, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Irena.Edwards@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5385

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov
(714) 484-5354

Next Steps

DTSC will respond to all public comments received on the draft IM Workplan before implementing any changes to the field work. If approved, remedial activities described in the IM Workplan will continue. All vapor extraction wells are already in place, and the blower located inside a warehouse at Hixson facility has been in operation since September, 2013. The blower will operate continuously or intermittently as needed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. If required in the future, a final cleanup plan to address groundwater impacts and metals in soil will also be available for public review and comment.

Media Inquiries

Sandy Nax, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95012-6114
E-mail: Sandy.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 327-6114

For more information about our department, please visit our website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov

Notice To Hearing Impaired

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.





Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732

Inside: Information on Hixson Metal Finishing Facility, Newport Beach