

**Fact Sheet
January 2005**

PUBLIC COMMENTS REQUESTED ON Proposed Cleanup for the Former Castrol Facility Los Angeles, CA



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ANNOUNCEMENT



*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



INTRODUCTION

We invite you to review and comment on the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) submitted by Castrol Industrial North America (Castrol) for their Former Facility Site located at 1935 north Marianna Avenue in Los Angeles. The objective of the cleanup plan is to prevent potential threat to public health or the environment by removing the benzene contaminated soil from the Site prior to redevelopment as an industrial/ commercial site.

As required by law, SECOR conducted an environmental investigation at the site with the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Benzene was found in soil samples in concentrations that exceeds DTSC's health risk levels for industrial/commercial sites. Production of acetylene and blending of special lubricants and hydraulic fluids for many years resulted in soil contamination.

Public Comment Period

**January 3, 2005 to
February 2, 2005**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Former Castrol Facility site.

Please send comments by e-mail or mail no later than February 2, 2005 to:

Ms. Rita Kamat,
Project Supervisor
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
Email: rkamat@dtsc.ca.gov

SITE HISTORY

The site was previously owned and operated from approximately 1918 to 1961 by Union Carbide, which produced acetylene during this period. From 1955 until 1961, the site was occupied by Linde Air Products and Chubbick Lime Company. In 1961, Bray Oil Company reportedly purchased the site and occupied the facility from 1961 to 1981. In 1985, Bray Oil Company and Burmah-Castrol Inc. were merged as Burmah-Castrol, Inc. In 1986, Burmah-Castrol Inc. became Castrol Inc. Castrol is currently in the process of selling the site to a developer for redevelopment as industrial/commercial properties.

The primary function of the facility was the blending of special lubricants and hydraulic fluids from 1961 until 1995, when operations ceased at the facility. The facility contained oil storage tank farms, oil blending processing equipment, chemical storage units, warehouses, a laboratory, and an administrative building.

INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The investigation results indicated that benzene contamination exists in four distinct areas at the site at depths ranging between approximately 5 and 15 feet below ground surface.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

In response to the proposed redevelopment of the site in early 2005, the cleanup options were evaluated based on effectiveness, feasibility, implementability and cost. The following options were identified for further evaluation:

- Option 1: No action
- Option 2: Soil vapor extraction
- Option 3: Excavation and off-site disposal

Based on the proposed redevelopment work which is expected to begin in early 2005, Option 3 (excavation and off-site disposal) is being proposed because it was determined to be the most protective of human health and the environment, easily implemented and cost effective. A detailed description of these alternatives is provided in the cleanup plan.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

DTSC has prepared a **draft Notice of Exemption (NOE)** for this project as required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the project will not have significant negative effect on the environment because of the short duration, relatively low volume of contaminated soil that will be excavated, and the controlled manner in which soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken off-site for disposal.

PLANS TO CLEANUP THE SITE

The proposed plan involves using conventional construction equipment to dig and remove approximately 800 cubic yards (approx. 1,200 tons) of contaminated soil that will be transported off-site in about 60 truckloads.

SAFETY AND DUST CONTROL DURING CLEANUP

The following steps will be taken to ensure safety and minimize the impact of dust generated during the cleanup:

- Access to the site will be restricted to authorized personnel
- Where necessary, wind screens will be attached to the temporary fencing prior to start of the onsite activities
- During excavation activities, work hours will be limited to reduce impacts to local traffic. The trucks will enter and exit the site from Marianna and Eastern Avenue onramp to the 10 Freeway.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the site
- The excavated soils/materials will be loaded onto trucks and covered
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust.
- Water will be sprayed on soil after it is loaded into the trucks to further prevent dust.
- The air will be monitored at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels.
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover any stock piles of excavated soil that may have to be left in place prior to transporting it off-site.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the **Draft RAW** during the 30-day public comment period. Please send comments and/or questions to us on the proposed cleanup option (see Comment Form enclosed). Your comments must be postmarked by February 2, 2005 and sent to: Rita Kamat, Project Supervisor at 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

After the end of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all comments received and make a final determination to approve, revise or disapprove the draft RAW. A **Response-to-Comments Letter** will be sent to everyone who has submitted comments along with their address.

If the draft RAW is approved, the **fieldwork** is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid February 2005 and will last about 15 days. This includes excavating the soil, transporting it off-site for proper disposal and follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis.

PROPOSED EXCAVATION AREA MAP

