

Fact Sheet
May 2003

Chemical & Pigment 600 Nichols Road, Bay Point



Draft Remedial Action Plan Available for Public Review & Comment

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

The California Environmental Protection Agency, **Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)** has prepared this fact sheet to inform the community about the proposed **interim remedial action** for the Chemical and Pigment Company Facility (Site) located at 600 Nichols Road, near the intersection of Nichols Road and Port Chicago Highway, in the unincorporated City of Bay Point, Contra Costa County, California. DTSC is the lead agency overseeing environmental activities at the Site.

A **Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP)** has been prepared for the contaminated soil stockpile and buildings located at the Site. The plan recommends treatment and disposal off site for the soil and demolition and recycle/off-site disposal for the buildings.

DTSC has also prepared a proposed **Negative Declaration** to comply with the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**.

DTSC is currently accepting comments on the draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration during a 30 day comment period. (See Public Comment box)

A **Public Participation Plan** has been prepared for the Site and is available in the repositories listed on the back page.

Terms in bold are defined in the glossary.

Public Meeting and Comment Period

DTSC invites the public to comment on the draft Remedial Action Plan and proposed Negative Declaration for the Chemical and Pigment Facility. The public comment period is from May 28, 2003 to June 26, 2003. DTSC will hold a public meeting to provide information and answer questions at the following time and location:

June 4, 2003

**Ambrose Community Center
3105 Willow Pass Road
Bay Point, California
Open House: 6:00 – 6:30 pm
Public Meeting: 6:30 pm**

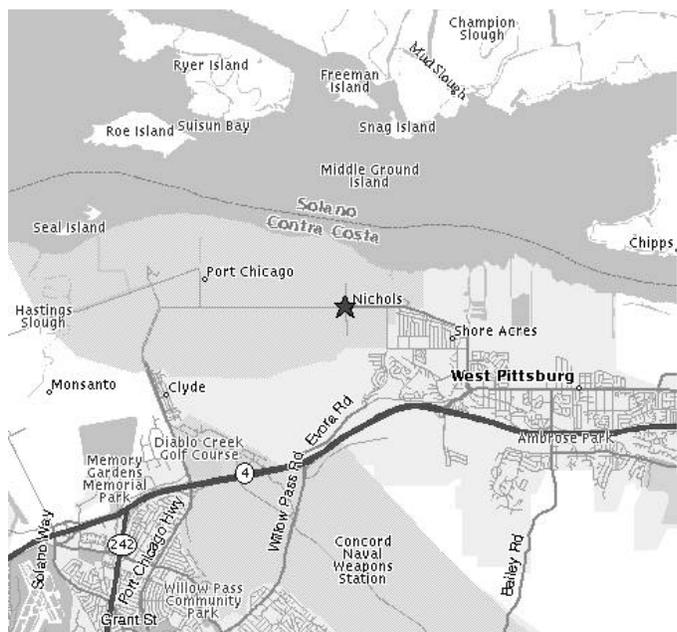
You may submit oral or written comments at the public meeting. If you wish to submit written comments, please send comments, post-marked by June 26, 2003 to:

Jayantha Randeni,
Project Manager DTSC
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3806
E Mail: jrandeni@dtsc.ca.gov

You may also contact Rachelle Maricq, Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3910
E Mail: rmaricq@dtsc.ca.gov

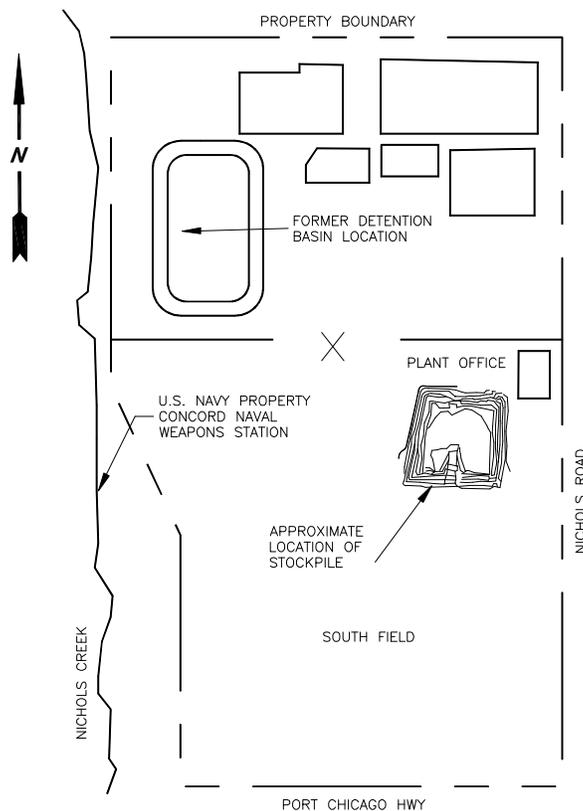
SITE HISTORY

The Chemical & Pigment Company property (Site) is about 12 acres in size and is located in an industrial area adjacent to the Concord Naval Weapons Station (See Site Vicinity Map). The facility processed zinc from galvanizing waste from approximately 1960 to 1998 when the Chemical & Pigment Company filed bankruptcy. Shortly thereafter it stopped operations and abandoned the facility.



Site Vicinity Map

The Site consists of eight buildings and other process equipment, a capped surface impoundment and approximately 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil that has been stockpiled on site (See Site Layout). The Site is completely fenced with an access gate on both the east and north sides.



Site Layout

SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

Schools, childcare centers, hospitals and places of worship are considered to be sensitive receptors. No schools, churches or hospitals are located within a mile radius of the Site. Four schools are located between 1.25 and 1.5 miles to the southeast. The nearest residences are in the unincorporated town of Shore Acres, located about 0.5 miles to the southeast. The nearest hospital, the Mt. Diablo Medical Center, is located 7 miles to the southwest.

PAST ACTIVITIES

In 1991, the U.S. Navy filed a lawsuit, alleging that the Chemical & Pigment Company Facility was the source of **zinc** and **lead** contamination in the **groundwater** under the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Contaminated soil was then excavated and stockpiled on site.

In 1978, a surface impoundment was built to contain fluid by-products of the manufacturing process. In 1996 the surface impoundment was **capped** in-place.

In January 2002, DTSC's Emergency Response Unit took measures to stabilize the Site and protect public health and the environment.

These measures included:

- covering the soil pile
- putting locks on the gates
- repairing holes in the fence
- putting hay bales around the Site
- removing abandoned chemicals that remained in the company laboratory
- removing all liquid waste from the tanks and
- removing drummed and bagged waste from the property

In October 2002, DTSC issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order which gave DTSC the ability to conduct additional investigation and cleanup activities at the Site.

In December 2002, DTSC collected samples from the storm water runoff and found elevated levels of lead and zinc.

In January 2003, a storm water treatment system was installed to collect and treat the rainwater which accumulates on the Site. The water is treated to remove the contaminants and discharges into a sanitary sewer under a permit from the Delta Diablo Sanitation district.

The poor condition of the equipment and machinery and the residual chemicals at the Site pose immediate threats to human health and the environment. Therefore, in March 2003, emergency work to remove process tanks, machinery, piping and equipment was started in accordance with an Implementation Work Plan which includes a Site Health and Safety Plan. This plan is available for public review in the information repositories listed on the back page.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The draft RAP evaluated:

Three remedial action alternatives for soil

- Alternative 1 - No Action
- Alternative 2 - Treatment and Off-site Disposal
- Alternative 3 – Capping in Place

And two remedial action alternatives for the buildings

- Alternative 1 - No Action
- Alternative 2 - Demolition and Recycling/Off-site Disposal

Each option was evaluated based on how well it would protect the public health and the environment and whether it complied with relevant laws. Additionally, each option was evaluated based on how effective it would be, how easily it could be done, and how much it costs. Based on these criteria, alternative 2 is recommended, for both the soil stockpile and the buildings.

PROPOSED INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTIONS

SOIL

The recommended remedial action for the soil stockpile is treatment and off-site disposal. The estimated volume of the contaminated soil stockpile to be treated is 15,000 cubic yards.

The waste soil in the stockpile needs to be treated to meet the land disposal standards. Various treatment options are being explored and the most effective and economical treatment method will be chosen. The soil will be loaded for transport via rail or truck to the disposal facility.

Following loading, the soils in the trucks or rails cars will be covered before leaving the Site. Registered hazardous waste haulers would be used to transport the soil to an approved disposal facility.

It is estimated that treatment and disposal of soil stockpile would take 2.5 months. The start of the work would depend on the availability of the state funds.

BUILDINGS

The recommended alternative for the buildings is demolition and recycling/off-site disposal. Buildings would be taken apart and then the pieces would be pressure washed and disposed of as either hazardous, non-hazardous non-recyclable or non-hazardous recyclable. It is estimated that demolition and disposal of the building debris would take 2 months.

These alternatives are recommended because they are considered to be the most favorable in overall protection of human health and the environment.

All work would be performed in accordance with a site-specific health and safety plan. The plan will comply with both state and federal regulations designed to protect the health and safety of onsite workers and the public.

Contractors will take steps to control dust so that neither workers or nearby persons will be exposed to dust containing contaminants. Water spray will be used for dust control as necessary.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

DTSC has evaluated the cleanup project, in accordance with the CEQA requirements, to determine if the proposed cleanup will have any negative impacts on the environment. We have determined that the cleanup will improve environmental quality, and does not have negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

DTSC plans to conduct additional remedial investigations (RI) to define the levels of contamination in on-site soil, off-site sediments and groundwater, as more funds become available.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

A law mandating environmental impact review of governmental actions in California. The Act applies generally to all activities undertaken by state and local agencies, and to private activities financed, regulated, or approved by state and local agencies.

CAP

A layer, such as clay or a synthetic material, used to prevent rainwater from penetrating the soil and spreading contamination.

CUBIC YARD

A term of measurement. Fifteen cubic yards equals approximately one dump truck load.

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC)

A department within the California Environmental Protection Agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the investigation and clean up of hazardous waste sites. DTSC was formerly the California Department of Health Services, Toxic Substances Control Program.

GROUNDWATER

Water beneath the earth's surface that flows through soil and rock openings, aquifers, and often serves as a primary source of drinking water.

INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURES

Cleanup actions taken to protect public health and the environment while long-term solutions are being developed.

LEAD

A heavy metal present in small amounts everywhere in the environment. Lead can get into the body from drinking contaminated water, eating vegetables grown in contaminated soil, or breathing dust when children play or adults work in lead-contaminated areas or eating lead-based paint. It can cause damage to the nervous system or blood cells. Children are at highest risk because their bodies are still developing. Lead and its compounds are listed as a reproductive toxic substance for women and men.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A California Environmental Quality Act document issued by the lead regulatory agency when the initial environmental study reveals nonsubstantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant adverse effect on the environment, or when any significant effects would be avoided or mitigated by revisions agreed to by the applicant.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

A document approved by DTSC that is designed to determine a community's informational needs and to provide a program for public involvement during facility permitting, site investigation and cleanup, or other similar activities.

REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP)

A plan that outlines a specific program leading to the remediation of a contaminated site. Once the Draft Remedial Action Plan is prepared, and approved by DTSC a public meeting is held and comments from the public are solicited for a period of not less than 30 days. After the public comment period has ended and the comments have been responded to in writing, DTSC may modify the Draft RAP on the basis of those comments before it approves the final remedy for the site (the Final RAP).

ZINC

A metal used for auto parts, for galvanizing, and in production of brasses and dry cell batteries. It is nutritionally essential but toxic at higher levels.

Anuncio

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

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, please call Jayantha Randeni, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3806 or Rachelle Maricq, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3910. For media questions, please contact Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732.

Information Repositories

The public participation plan, the draft RAP and the negative declaration, which are part of the Administrative Record for the Site, as well as other documents relating to the Site are available for public review at the following locations:

Ambrose Community Center
3105 Willow Pass Road
Bay Point, CA 94565
(925) 458-1601

Bay Point Library
Riverview Middle School
205 Pacifica Avenue
Bay Point, CA 94565
(925) 458-9597

DTSC File Room
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
(Call for Appointment)

The full Administrative Record for the Chemical and Pigment Company Site is available at the DTSC Office listed above.

Additional Information about DTSC can be found at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Rachelle Maricq at (510) 540-3910.

Rachelle Maricq
DTSC
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710