



PUBLIC NOTICE OF CLEANUP PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

**Union Carbide Corporation (UCC)
Torrance, California**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 21, 2004 to June 21, 2004

We invite you to review and comment on a plan to clean up the soil and groundwater at a former manufacturing operation in Torrance, California. The site, known as Union Carbide Distribution Facility, Heil Separator Area is located at 19500 Mariner Avenue. The site is approximately 37 acres. At this time, chemicals produced by the facility were released from an oil-water separation unit, known as the Heil Separator, resulting in contamination of soil and groundwater. The unit is just over one acre in size and has since been repaired and these chemicals are no longer produced or handled at the facility. The size of the property undergoing investigation and remediation activities is 17 acres, which includes the Heil Separator Area. Additional removal activities at the site will be performed in the near future.

Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), will oversee the cleanup of the site.

The facility manufactured polyethylene and ethylene glycol when it was built in 1956 until 1982, when the manufacturing operations were discontinued and much of it was removed under the oversight of the California Department of Health Services. Approximately half of the original property was then sold and redeveloped, primarily as office space and retail businesses. The remainder of the site, which includes the Heil Separator Area, is now part of a chemical distribution facility. The distribution operation includes 56 above ground tanks and an ethanol blending area.

The facility entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with our agency in April 1996 to investigate and clean up the site. This agreement currently includes ongoing removal of chemicals from the groundwater and testing the groundwater each year. The groundwater tests have shown the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

PAHs and VOCs can cause health problems if people are exposed to them for a long period of time. People can be exposed to the chemicals by getting contaminated soil on their skin, by ingesting (eating) it, or by breathing the vapors released if the soil is disturbed (excavated). Since the soils at the site are covered and the chemicals are not migrating off the site in groundwater, the site is considered safe for its current commercial use. However, we need to clean up the groundwater to make it safe for other possible uses in the future.

The cleanup plan is described in a document titled "Final Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Union Carbide Corporation." The plan, if approved by the public, is to remove liquid hydrocarbons known as dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) from the groundwater, install a new groundwater monitoring well, complete ongoing testing of groundwater samples collected from the groundwater monitoring wells at the facility, and evaluate the effectiveness of natural attenuation in reducing the contaminants in the groundwater. DNAPL removal and groundwater testing have been taking place at the facility since 1997 and would increase in frequency under the plan.

Our agency did a study to see if these cleanup activities would have a negative impact (harm) on the environment. This study is required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We

found the cleanup activities would not have a significant impact on the environment. Our study and this finding are described in a document titled "Draft Negative Declaration for the Union Carbide Corporation." This "Negative Declaration" is also available for your review and comment.

We encourage you to review and comment on both the cleanup plan and the Negative Declaration during the 30-day comment period of through May 21, 2004 to June 21, 2004. Please send written comments, emailed or postmarked by June 21, 2004, to Johnson Abraham, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630 or by e-mail: jabraham@dtsc.c.a.gov.

Copies of the Final Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Union Carbide Distribution Facility Heil Separator Area and Negative Declaration, as well as other technical documents related to the project, are at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California 90503, and (310) 618-5959. They are also at our agency's office at the Cypress address shown above. Please contact to make an appointment to see them.

If you have questions about the project, please contact:

Leticia Hernandez, Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5488
Email: lhernand@dtsc.ca.gov

Johnson Abraham, Project Manager
(714) 484-5476
Email: jabraham@dtsc.ca.gov

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

TDD users can obtain additional information by using the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Leticia Hernandez at (714) 484-5488.