



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Dated: June 16, 2004

WHITTAKER-BERMITE SITE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED ON THE DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR OPERABLE UNIT 1

Dear Community Member:

As you may be aware, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recently initiated a public comment period and held a public meeting for a proposed Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Negative Declaration for Operable Unit 1 (OU1) located in the Whittaker-Bermite site. The Draft RAP for OU1, involves a combination of site-tested remedy options to clean up chemical contaminants in the soil. The draft RAP represents a significant first step in the overall effort to clean up the site to the highest standard that is protective of public health and the environment.

In response to public comments received on the proposed Draft RAP for OU1, DTSC is planning the following activities:

- Extending the public comment period on the Draft RAP beyond the initial 30 days (originally schedule to close on June 11, 2004).
- Changing the CEQA Negative Declaration to a Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- Accepting public comments on the Draft Remedial Design documents.
- Sending community members a notice announcing the new comment period for the Draft RAP, Mitigated Negative Declaration and Remedial Design for OU1.

Please note that there will not be any CEQA or Draft RAP final decision on the cleanup options for OU1 until all public comments have been evaluated for the Remedial Design and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The Remedial Design phase of the proposed cleanup will include specific public health and environmental standards that need to be achieved in order for the proposed cleanup remedies to be implemented. The Remedial Design will also address the mitigation of any potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the implementation of the proposed cleanup at OU1.

Presently, the remediation methods proposed for the cleanup of OU1 meet DTSC's highest cleanup standards that have been proven to work at other sites throughout the state.

DTSC is committed to working with Whittaker, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Castaic Lake Water Agency, and others who are directly involved in a number of investigation and remediation efforts on the property. We are also working with the City of Santa Clarita and with the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) in order to keep everyone informed of the progress being made at the site. We also remain committed to adhering to a rigorous schedule that will ultimately result in the final clean up of OU 1 and other portions of the Whittaker-Bermite site in a timely manner.

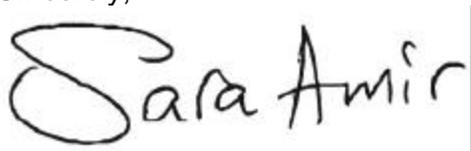
If you would like to make comment on the Draft RAP for OU1, technical information can be found at the following locations:

- Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201
- City of Santa Clarita Planning Department
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, CA
- City of Santa Clarita Public Library - Valencia Branch
23743 W. Magic Mountain Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA
- City of Santa Clarita Public Library - Canyon Country Branch
18601 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA

Please forward written comments to: Mr. Jose Diaz, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. Phone: (818) 551-2171.

If you have any questions about the work being done to investigate and remediate the Whittaker-Bermite property, please do not hesitate to call our information line at 661-705-1444 for further up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Amir". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a vertical line.

Sayareh Amir, Chief
Southern California Cleanup Operations Branch
Glendale Office