



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California

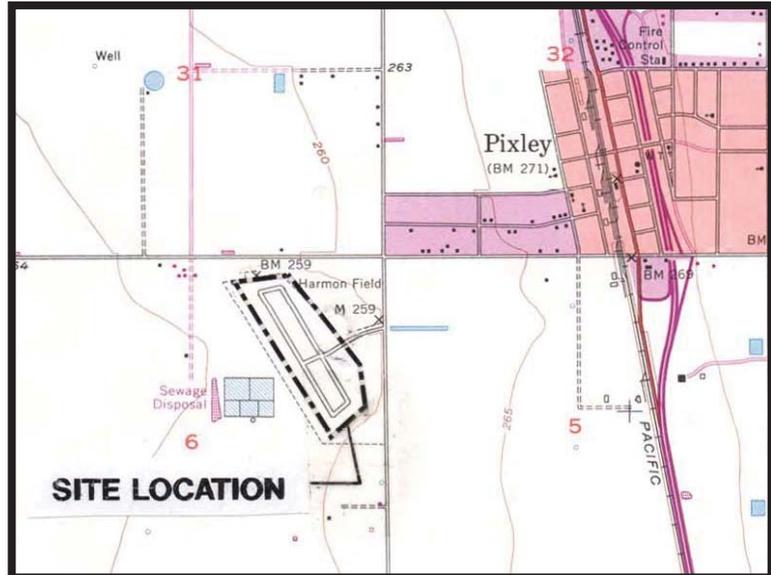


California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, September 2010

Revised Draft Remedial Action Plan And Proposed Negative Declaration For The Harmon Field Site

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is requesting public comment on the revised Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) submitted by Tulare County to address pesticide contamination at Harmon Field in Pixley, California.



Additionally, DTSC is also requesting public comment on a proposed Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This fact sheet contains a site background, information on the draft RAP, the proposed Negative Declaration, and the public comment period.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

September 10, 2010 to October 11, 2010

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the draft RAP. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period beginning September 10, 2010 and ending on October 11, 2010 date. All comments must be postmarked by October 10, 2010. All e-mailed comments must be received that same day. Please submit your comments to:

Tom Berg, DTSC Project Manager
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93612
TBerg@dtsc.ca.gov

PUBLIC MEETING

DTSC will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft RAP and Proposed Negative Declaration on Thursday, 6 PM September 30, 2010 at the:

Pixley Community Room
161 North Pine Street
Pixley, California 93256

Si desea informacion en espanol comuniquese con:
Jesus Cruz, al (866) 495-5651 o al (916) 255-3315



Background

Harmon Field Site, a former airport, at 1494 South Airport Drive Pixley, California. It encompasses approximately 40 acres on a 104 acre parcel. It is owned by the County of Tulare and was used as a base for cropduster activity from 1952 to 1994. The airport was closed in 1994. In 1985, Harmon Field was placed on the State Priority Ranking List, a ranking of hazardous waste sites, by the then Department of Health Services, now DTSC. Tulare County has been conducting site investigations under the oversight of DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board since 1985.

Remedial Investigation

A remedial investigation (RI) was conducted from May 30, 1986 to July 30, 1986 to determine the nature and extent of pesticide contamination. The most widespread contaminants found in the soil were DDT (also known as 1,1,1 Trichloro 2,2 bis (pchlorophenyl)ethane) and Toxaphene, both organochlorine pesticides. The results of the RI showed the highest concentrations of pesticides to be in the following four areas: 1) the ditch located to the North of the Earlimart Dusters' wash pad; 2) the area containing buried trash located immediately east of the rinsewater pond; 3) the rinsewater pond; and 4) the asphalt from the runway and taxiways.

On June 4, 1986, groundwater samples were collected from three active domestic off-site wells. No chemical contamination was detected in any of these wells. Three on-site groundwater monitoring wells were installed, and they also found no pesticide contamination. Subsequent groundwater sampling has been done periodically which still detected no significant pesticide contamination.

Feasibility Study

The Feasibility Study is used to identify possible remedial alternatives to address the pesticide contamination at the Harmon Field site. Potential remedial alternatives are evaluated against nine federally approved criteria. The criteria includes:

- Protection of human health and the environment;
- Compliance with applicable, relevant and appropriate regulations and requirements;
- Reduction in toxicity, mobility, and volume of contaminants through treatment;

- Implementability;
- Short-term effectiveness;
- Long-term effectiveness and permanence;
- Cost;
- State acceptance; and
- Community acceptance.

Additional Field Investigations

Additional field investigations and necessary interim removal actions have periodically been conducted in anticipation of remediation activities including:

- Data gaps soil sampling;
- Asphalt runway and taxiway sampling;
- Removal of buildings;
- Removal of existing stockpiled contaminated materials from various site investigations;
- Removal of contaminated debris discovered during stormwater drainage improvements.
- Proper abandonment and closure of the three on-site groundwater monitoring wells located within the remediation area

Draft Remedial Action Plan

After identifying and evaluating possible remedies, a process called low temperature thermal desorption was selected as the most feasible method to remediate soils at the site. This method uses heat to separate pesticides from the soil. Contaminants released from the soil would be captured in carbon filters and sent to an off-site disposal facility. Clean soil would be returned to the ground. This process significantly reduces the amount of material required to be sent to an off-site disposal facility.

On-site entombment and capping of the contaminated asphalt from the runway and taxiways was selected as the most feasible method to remediate the contaminated asphalt. A trench will be excavated in a clean, isolated area of the site and the contaminated asphalt will be placed in the trench and a concrete or clean asphalt cap will be constructed over it to protect and isolate the buried contaminated asphalt. Periodic inspections will be conducted, documented and reported to DTSC to assure the entombed material is not disturbed.

The cost of the entire remediation activities is estimated to be between \$2 to 4 million including pre-remediation site preparation, abandonment

of on-site structures, removal of stockpiled contaminated debris, excavation and thermal treatment of the contaminated soil, excavation and placement of contaminated asphalt, and site restoration.

California Environmental Quality Act - Initial Study/Negative Declaration

An Initial Study was conducted by DTSC to determine if the additional soil removal activities would have a significant effect on the environment. A determination has been made that the additional removal would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, DTSC has prepared a Negative Declaration for this project. The proposed Initial Study and Negative Declaration are also open for public review and comment.

Future Activities

After the 30-day public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination. Anyone who submitted a comment on the revised draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration will receive a DTSC "Response to comments" document. This document provides all comments submitted during the public comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. The Response to Comments will also be available for review at the locations listed under Information Repositories.

Information Repositories

The draft RAP, CEQA Initial Study, the proposed Negative Declaration, and other related documents are available for public review at the information repository located at:

Tulare County Pixley Branch Library
(Pixley Union Elementary School)
300 North School Street
Pixley, California 93256
(559) 757-3880

DTSC, Region District Office
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93612
(559) 297-3901
By appointment only

Contact Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Site.

For questions regarding documents, contact:
Tom Berg, DTSC Project Manager
(559) 297-3978

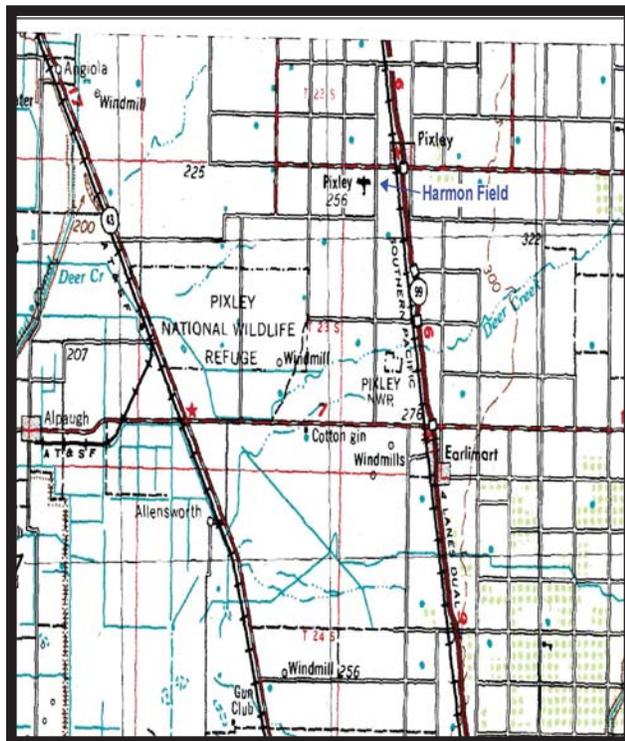
TBerg@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact: Tammy Pickens
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3594, 1(866) 495-5651

TPickens@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions from the Media, contact:
Kam Coveyou, DTSC Public information Officer,
(916) 324-8304

KCoveyou@dtsc.ca.gov



Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at (800)735-2929. Ask for Tammy Pickens, Public Participation Specialist for the Harmon Field Site in Pixley, California at (916) 255-3594.

Comment Form for the Harmon Field Site

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked by date. Please send or email this form to:

Tom Berg, DTSC Project Manager
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93612
TBerg@dtsc.ca.gov

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Phone number (optional): _____

Comments: _____

Note: If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper

Would you like to be added or removed from the Harmon Field Mailing list?

If you would like to be added or removed from the mailing list for Harmon Field, complete the information below and return to Tammy Pickens, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826. You can e-mail your request to be added or removed from the mailing list to TPickens@dtsc.ca.gov.

_____ Please remove my name from the mailing list _____ Please add my name to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Note: While this mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record