

Fact Sheet, January 2012

Cleanup Plan for Contamination Found at the Former Honeywell Lomita Facility Available for Review

A draft cleanup plan called a Removal Action Workplan (draft RAW) to clean up deep contaminated soil and soil vapor at the Former Honeywell Lomita facility (Honeywell) is open for public review and comment. The site is located at 3201 West Lomita Boulevard in Torrance, California.



Aerial view of the Former Honeywell Lomita Facility

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD **January 3, 2012 to February 2, 2012**

The draft cleanup plan and other related project documents for this site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision after all public comment has been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments **by February 2, 2012**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Lori Parnass, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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Chatsworth, CA 91311
lparnass@dtsc.ca.gov



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

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



State of California



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Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contamination. However, DTSC recommended that a plan be prepared to clean up the contamination to protect the future users of the property. DTSC will oversee the removal action and ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

History and Operations at the Site

The property was owned and operated by Vickers, now a part of the Eaton Corporation from about 1953 to 1961. Site activities during this time period included the manufacturing of fluid control pumps, cylinders and hydraulic systems for the aerospace, marine, and defense industries. Motor Corporation operated on the site from 1961 to 1973 and was responsible for the development of the engine test laboratory.

Garrett Corporation manufactured turbo chargers for power generation and vehicles on the property from 1973 to 1986. In 1986, Garrett Corporation was purchased by Allied Signal, which is now known as Honeywell. Honeywell continued similar site activities until building demolition began on the property in 2010. In 2010, 13,835 cubic yards of contaminated shallow soil was removed from the site to prevent the potential for humans to be exposed to contamination found in the soil.

Environmental Investigations

During environmental investigations conducted at the site, the following contaminants were found in soil, soil gas, and groundwater beneath the ground surface:

- Arsenic
- cadmium
- chromium
- total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs)
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- trichloroethylene (TCE)
- cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE)

Arsenic, cadmium, and chromium are metals that naturally exist in the earth's crust. They are found in soil, rocks, plants and animals. Arsenic is mainly used to preserve wood. Cadmium is found in batteries, pigments, metal coatings, and plastics. Chromium is used for making steel, chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preserving.

TPHs are a group of several hundred chemical compounds that are found in crude oil and other petroleum products.

PCBs are a mixture of chemical compounds that are often used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977 because they can cause harmful health effects.

PCE, TCE, and DCE are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in deep soil and groundwater beneath the site. VOCs are solvents used in the manufacturing process to clean metal parts. The VOCs were found in soil gas which is the air space between soil particles beneath the ground surface.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 - Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE)

Alternative 3 - Excavation with Off-Site Disposal

In 2010, pilot tests were done to identify the most effective method to clean up the contamination in deeper soil and groundwater. These tests revealed that the best option to remove the deeper VOC contamination from soil gas is through SVE.

An SVE system contains several wells that are connected to a piping system beneath the ground surface. A blower or vacuum pump is connected to the piping to direct the contaminants into the system where they are treated and then released into the atmosphere as clean vapor. The SVE system will operate until the cleanup levels established for the site are reached. Details of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 4 of the draft RAW.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment.

Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address.

The SVE system is expected to be installed in early 2012. After the cleanup process is completed, testing will be done to confirm that the cleanup goals have been met. Once it is determined that the cleanup is complete, a Removal Action Completion Report will be submitted to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Site Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents for Honeywell are available for review at the following locations:

Torrance Public Library

3301 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
Contact: Reference Librarian (310) 618-5959

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Contact: Vivien Tutaan (818) 717-6521
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at:

www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

- In the City entry field, type: Torrance and click on the “Get Report” button
- Click on [Report] to the left of the Honeywell-Torrance entry
- Click on the Activities Tab to reveal the documents

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Lori Parnass
DTSC Project Manager
(818) 717-6597
lparnass@dtsc.ca.gov

Zenzi Poindexter
DTSC Public Participation
(714) 484-5477 or (866)495-5651
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Media Inquiries:

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Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Zenzi Poindexter at (866) 495-5651 regarding the former Honeywell Torrance project.

All documents made available to the public by the DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law. Please contact Zenzi Poindexter for assistance.

