

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California’s people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN (RAW) SOUTHWEST METAL COMPANY – 740 W. CONGRESS STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Marina Perez al número (818) 717 6569.



Photograph of the Former Southwest Metal Company (SMC) Facility

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the draft Remedy Selection Document and Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for Southwest Metal Company, a former battery breaking and secondary lead smelting operation (Site), located at 740 W. Congress Street, San Bernardino, California.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Under CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared, as the proposed remedial activities will not have a significant effect on public health and the environment.

What is Being Proposed? The proposed action at this Site is to remove and properly dispose of the soils impacted with heavy metals, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon Compounds (PNAs), and dioxins and furans in order to reduce the potential threat to human health and the environment. It is estimated that approximately 8,000 cubic yards of potentially impacted soil will be excavated, segregated, and sampled. Based on analytical results, soil exceeding the Site cleanup criteria will be transported to a permitted disposal facility.

Public Comment Period



**30-day public comment period
August 28, 2014 to September 29,
2014**

Comments concerning the draft RAW can be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Isaac Hirbawi, Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control,
5796 Corporate Ave.,
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5445
Isaac.Hirbawi@dtsc.ca.gov

All comments must be postmarked
Postmarked, or emailed, by
September 29, 2014.

DTSC will hold a public meeting, if
requested by the public, at a location
close to the Site.



Once the excavations have been completed, confirmation samples will be collected to verify that all of the impacted material has been removed. Clean fill material will be used to backfill excavated areas and the Site will be graded and paved with asphalt.

Once the Site has been graded and paved, an additional groundwater monitoring well will be installed and periodically monitored, along with the three current monitoring wells at the Site, to confirm the ground water conditions at the Site have not been impacted by historical operations. The proposed future use of the Site will always be for commercial/ industrial purposes only.

There is no immediate health risk from the contaminants previously identified in the subsurface soil on and off the Site. However, the DTSC determined that the soil has levels of contaminants that are above acceptable risk and should be removed.

History and Operations at the Site: The Site is currently the inactive/vacant location of a former battery breaking and secondary lead smelter facility that was in operation from approximately 1975 to 1983. During this time period, Site operations included used battery disassembly; draining and storage/neutralization of battery electrolyte in several acid pits, and recovery of the lead battery plates for smelting in the on-Site furnace and kettles. The lead was refined in a series of kettles and poured into ingots for sale.

In September 1977, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued SMC a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) (Order No. 78-58) that authorized discharge of acid wastes to an impervious holding tank and sanitary wastes to a subsurface disposal system. Battery acid was drained into the north and south pits located on the west side of the Site with approximate holding capacities of 4,500 and 3,000 gallons, respectively. Soda ash, which was stored onsite in bags, was used to neutralize the acid.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DTSC is required by law to review all environmental activities under CEQA which asks a series of questions about the possibility of a significant effect on the environment. DTSC prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. Our findings indicate that the proposed activities (digging, excavating, backfilling, etc.) will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment.

Next Steps: Upon approval of the RAW, DTSC will provide oversight for the cleanup of the Site by requiring SMC to implement the proposed Removal Action Workplan and to continue to evaluate conditions of the groundwater.

Where You Can Find Information: A copy of the draft RAW, CEQA, and other technical documents for this project is available at the following locations:

Feldheim Library
555 W. 6th Street
San Bernardino, Ca 92410
Phone: 909-381-8201 call for library hours.

The same documents are also available at:

DTSC file room at 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630. Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., contact Jone Barrio, phone: (714) 484-5337.

You can also visit the DTSC EnviroStor website:
http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=36330036

Who to Contact for More Information

For more information about this project, please contact the following DTSC representatives:

Mr. Isaac Hirbawi, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program
5796 Corporate Ave.
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5445
Isaac.Hirbawi@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Tim Chauvel, DTSC Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90603
(714) 484-5487
TChauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

For media related inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Sandy Nax, DTSC Public Information Officer
(916) 327-6114
SNax@dtsc.ca.gov



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Tim Chauvel, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Inside: Information on REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN - SOUTHWEST METAL COMPANY

740 W. Congress St., San Bernardino, California

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov