



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



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet, June 2011

## Indio High School Cleanup Plan Available For Review



A draft cleanup plan to remove contaminated soil with polychlorinated biphenyl [PCBs] Aroclor 1260 at the existing Indio High School site (School) is available for public review and comment. The draft cleanup plan, called a Removal Action Work Plan (RAW), was submitted by the by Desert Sands Unified School District (District) to the Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) for the Site located within the School at 81-750 Avenue 46, Indio, California.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**June 30 , 2011 – August 1, 2011**

The draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. The DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments postmarked by August 1, 2011; or by email before the deadline date to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630

[jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)



## Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk to children, parents, faculty or people who live near the site because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil, since the contaminants are located below ground surface. In addition, the area is fenced and access is restricted. However, should site conditions change, contaminated soil may be brought to the surface during construction, grading or other site work. DTSC requested that a cleanup plan be prepared to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil to protect students and staff at the new Site. DTSC will oversee the cleanup and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

The DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees environmental investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

## History and Operations

The site is approximately 1500 square feet and is located within the Indio High School. The school was constructed in 1969 and has been consistently used as a school through the present time. The site was undeveloped land prior to its development as a school. The chemical of concern on-site is the PCB Aroclor 1260.

PCBs were used in various manufacturing processes (e.g., as a coolant and insulating fluid in transformers, in paints, and as a stabilizing additive) until 1979 when federal laws changed to ban its production in the United States. The PCB contamination on-site is believed to be the result of a surface spill, which may have occurred when PCB-containing transformers were removed from the property.

## Environmental Investigations

During investigations conducted between May 2009 and February 2011, elevated concentrations of Aroclor 1260 were found in shallow soil near the east side of the high school campus. The affected area is approximately 1,500 square feet. Based on the limited concentrations detected at 2 feet below ground surface, the removal should be limited to the upper 1 to 2 feet of soil. This would result in the removal of about 45 to 90 cubic yards of

soil (depending on whether 1 or 2 feet of soil is removed). This is approximately 70 to 140 tons of soil, or approximately 4 to 7 large truckloads.

## Proposed Cleanup Options

The following Cleanup Options will be considered for this site:

- Alternative 1 - No Further Action
- Alternative 2 - Treatment
- Alternative 3 - Containment through Surface Capping
- Alternative 4 - Removal and Off-Site Disposal

Based on careful analysis of these alternatives Alternative 4, Removal and Off-Site Disposal, is recommended because it protects human health and the environment, is a permanent solution, and is most cost effective.

If Alternative 4 is selected, the contaminated soil will be dug out using a standard backhoe, hand shovels and/or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary. The excavated soil will be temporarily stockpiled, loaded into covered roll-off bins, or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site to be disposed of at a licensed disposal facility. The excavated soil will not be stockpiled on-site for long durations. After the contaminated soil is removed, samples will be taken to confirm that the contamination is gone.

## Safety & Dust Control during Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to minimize dust and ensure public safety:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying the work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Truck tires entering and exiting the site will be brushed to remove soils and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

## Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

About 45 to 90 cubic yards (or about 70 to 140 tons) of PCB-contaminated soil will be removed and taken off-site for disposal. It will take between 4 and 7 truckloads to remove the contaminated soil from the site. The trucks will leave the site going west on Avenue 46, then north on Clinton Street, then northwest on Indio Boulevard to Interstate 10. The soil will be taken to a state licensed and approved disposal and/or treatment facility. This work is limited to the hours between 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily. The cleanup process is expected to take about five days.

## California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the cleanup aspect of this project, a required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the proposed cleanup will not have a negative impact on human health and the environment because of the relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, short project duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

## Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any 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 soil removal is expected to take place in August 2011 when students are not present, and should take about five days. After the cleanup process is completed, DSUSD will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been reached and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

## Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for Indio High School are available for review at the following locations:

Desert Sands Unified School District  
Facilities Services  
47-950 Dune Palms Road, La Quinta, CA 92253  
Phone: (760) 771-8516

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630  
Contact: Julie Johnson, (714) 484-5338  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Indio Public Library  
200 Civic Center Mall, Indio, CA 92201  
Phone: (760) 347-2383  
Hours: Mon: 12 pm – 8 pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs,  
Sat: 10 am – 6 pm; Closed Fri and Sun

Site documents are also available at:

[www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) Enter “Indio” in the “City” box, click on “Map” under “Display Results.” When map opens, click on the yellow box for “School Cleanup” near the intersection of Clinton Street and Avenue 46. In the balloon that opens, click on “Indio High School” and this will take you to the Indio High School page. You can view completed reports under the “Activities” tab.

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

## Who to Contact for Information

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

Angela Garcia  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5490 or [agarcia@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:agarcia@dtsc.ca.gov)

Jeanne Matsumoto  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
(866) 495-5651, press 4 then press 6  
or [jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Media Inquiries:

Sandra Friedman  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(714) 484-5383 or [sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:sfriedma@dtsc.ca.gov)

## Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877 5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto regarding the Indio High School project.

