



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, November 2007

Cleanup Plan Available For Review For the Aero Quality Plating Site

A proposal to treat contaminated groundwater at the Aero Quality Plating (AQP) site is open for public comment. The AQP site is located at 710 73rd Avenue, in Oakland. The map on page 3 shows the site location and adjacent areas.

Present investigations at the AQP site have found that groundwater beneath the site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and 1,2-dichloroethene (Cis-1,2-DCE). The contamination is at levels which require treatment or cleanup.

The Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) proposes to cleanup the contaminated groundwater through a treatment called enhanced in-situ bioremediation. This treatment involves injecting a biodegradable substance, in this case a Hydrogen Release Compound (HRC) solution, into the contaminated groundwater to help accelerate the natural process of breaking down the contaminants. More information on this treatment can be found on page 3-4.

A cleanup plan called a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) describes in detail the investigations and proposed cleanup activities for the AQP site.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC must evaluate whether this site has any significant impacts on human health or the environment. As part of this evaluation, DTSC has proposed a Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) which concludes that the site will not result in any impact to human health or the environment.

DTSC invites you to review and comment on the Draft RAW. The proposed Draft RAW and Draft NOE are available for your review at the Information Repositories listed on page 5.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

We encourage you to review the Draft RAW and Draft NOE. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period for the Draft RAW beginning **November 12, 2007 through December 19, 2007**. All comments must be postmarked by December 19, 2007. All e-mailed comments must be received no later than 5:00 pm on December 19, 2007. Please submit written comments to:

Katharine Hilf
DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone: (510) 540-3817
Email: khilf@dtsc.ca.gov

A public meeting will be considered if one is requested. Please call or submit a written request for a public meeting, including the significant issues to be raised, to Chao Thao, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3649 or (866) 495-5651 or by email to cthao@dtsc.ca.gov by December 3, 2007.



DTSC is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. An important function of DTSC is to evaluate sites for potential hazardous substances or contamination that may pose a risk to public health and the environment and to oversee soil and groundwater investigations and cleanups if contamination is found. DTSC is the lead government agency overseeing soil and groundwater investigation and cleanup at the AQP site.

Site Location and History

The AQP site is a fenced 120-foot by 180-foot lot located in a mixed industrial/commercial area in the southern portion of Oakland near the Oakland Coliseum, west of San Leandro Street.

The AQP site is bound by the Oakland Coliseum Inner City Rail Station on the north and west, the Oakland Coliseum Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) overhead pedestrian walkway and industrial property on the north, the Alameda Flood Control Canal to the south and west, and by a vacant lot to the east. The nearest residential area, to the north and east, is over a quarter mile away from the AQP site.

From 1952 to 1963 the AQP site was occupied by Currier Corporation, a supplier of painting equipment and solvent recycler, which reportedly manufactured degreasing equipment and conducted metal stripping. Starting in 1958, Aero Quality Plating Company operated an electroplating business in building 1 and expanded operations to building 2 when Currier moved out in 1963. Operations included cleaning and degreasing metal parts prior to plating with nickel, gold, silver, copper, cadmium, tin, zinc, or chromium. Aluminum anodizing also was reported. Operations continued to 1985 when the business was abandoned. DTSC and the U.S. EPA conducted inspections and removed all containerized waste during 1987 to 1988. DTSC also demolished buildings 1 and 2 and decontaminated building 3. Soil was excavated to a depth of one to two feet over the area where buildings 1 and 2 were located and the area was refilled with clean soil. Periodic groundwater monitoring, overseen by DTSC has been conducted since 1994.

The AQP site is currently occupied by the All Star Pallet Company. The future site use is expected to remain industrial.

Site Investigations

Soon after contamination at the site was discovered, DTSC conducted a soil removal action at the site between 1987 and 1988. Subsequently, remedial investigation activities have focused on groundwater and surface water.

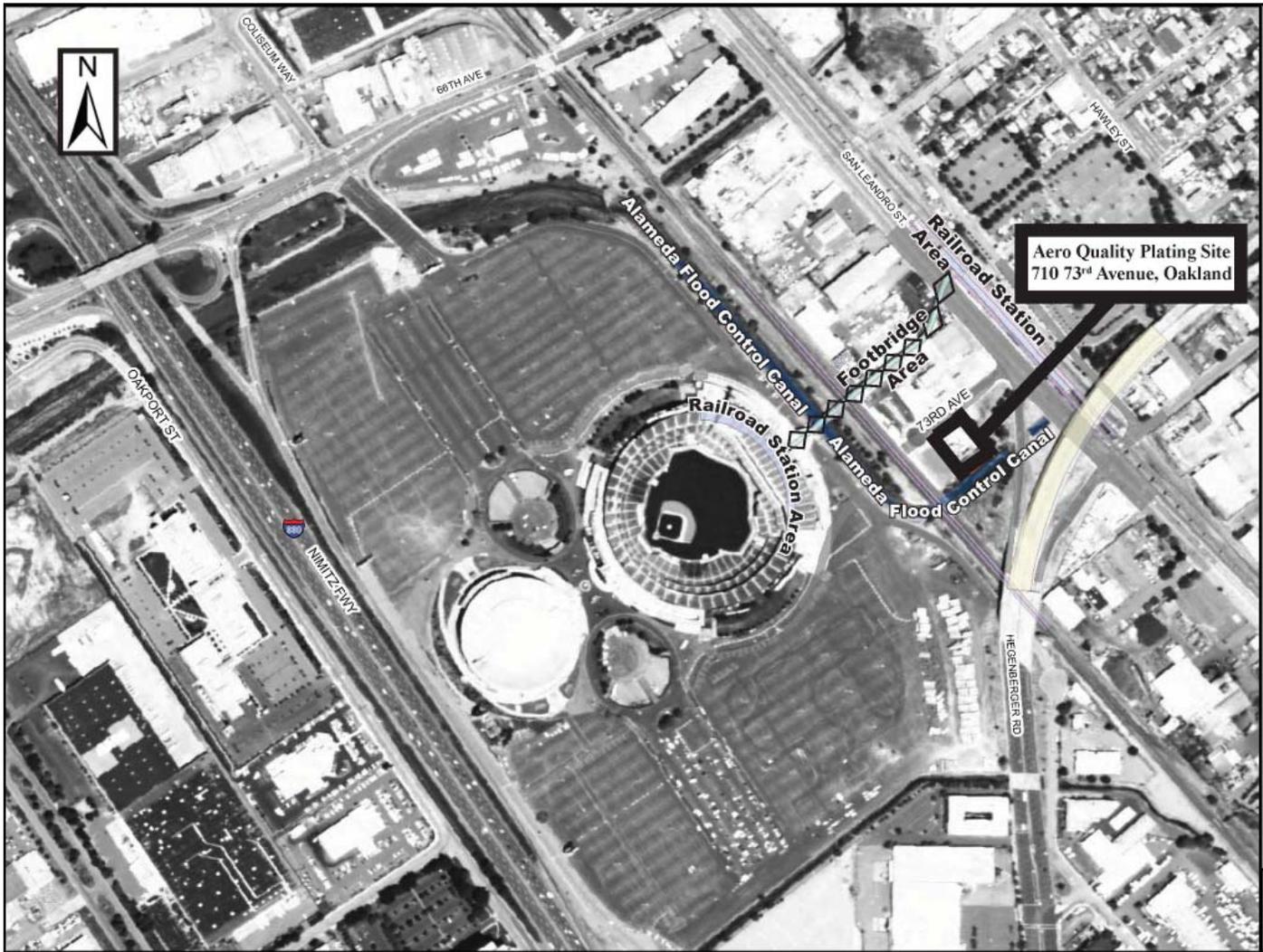
Groundwater investigations at the AQP site have determined that groundwater beneath the AQP site and the adjacent property is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The chemicals of potential concern in the groundwater are tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and 1,2-dichloroethene (Cis-1,2-DCE). Groundwater deeper than 35 feet below the surface has not been significantly impacted. The cleanup goals for the groundwater are the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). MCLs are the highest levels of a contaminant that are allowed in drinking water. The following chart lists the chemicals of potential concern and the cleanup goals.

Chemicals of Potential Concern	Maximum Level Detected 2007	Cleanup Goals
PCE	3,400 ppb	5 ppb
TCE	2,700 ppb	5 ppb
Cis-1,2-DCE	1,900 ppb	6 ppb
ppb = parts per billion		

The groundwater beneath the AQP site is not used as a drinking water source. The East Bay Municipal Utility District supplies the drinking water for the City of Oakland.

What is a Draft RAW?

The purpose of a Draft RAW is to identify a preferred cleanup alternative for a site that prevents or reduces potential risk to public health and the environment. The Draft RAW summarizes previous investigations, identifies cleanup goals and identifies possible cleanup alternatives. These alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to be implemented and cost.



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The Draft RAW identifies the alternative DTSC believes is the most appropriate for the site. Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, modify, or deny a Draft RAW, the Draft RAW is made available for public review and comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments received from the public during the public comment period are reviewed and considered before the Draft RAW is approved by DTSC.

Cleanup Alternatives Considered

Four cleanup alternatives were evaluated to address the groundwater contamination at the AQP site:

- Alternative 1 involves “No Action”. This alternative leaves contamination in place and does not address the problem.
- Alternative 2 involves relying on the natural physical, chemical, and biological processes to break down the contamination in the groundwater. Periodic groundwater sampling would be done to monitor the progress of the cleanup. Alternative 2 would take a very long time to reduce the groundwater contamination.
- Alternative 3 involves enhanced in situ bioremediation (EISB). This treatment involves injecting a biodegradable substance, in this case an HRC (Hydrogen Release Compound) solution containing sodium lactate, glycerin and other compounds, into the contaminated groundwater to help accelerate the natural process of breaking down the contaminants. The HRC solution will stimulate the growth of naturally occurring bacteria and degrade contaminants in groundwater through a process known as reductive dechlorination. Temporary borings will be drilled into the surface of the site to inject the HRC solution. Groundwater monitoring will be done to measure the performance of the treatment.
- Alternative 4 involves In Situ Chemical

Oxidation (ISCO). This treatment involves injecting chemical oxidants such as hydrogen peroxide, potassium permanganate, or sodium persulfate into the contaminated groundwater to chemically destroy the contaminants. ISCO would be applied using temporary injection borings drilled into the site. Groundwater sampling would be done to monitor the performance of the treatment. This treatment could lead to potential human and ecological health risks from exposure to chemical oxidants.

DTSC's Cleanup Recommendation and Proposed Activities

DTSC recommends Alternative 3, EISB, as the preferred cleanup alternative. This alternative is most protective of human health and the environment, cleans up the site to levels that are safe for industrial/commercial use, and is cost effective and can be readily implemented.

The following are proposed activities for Alternative 3:

- Installing an additional monitoring well at the site approximately 10 and 20 feet below the surface.
- HRC will be injected in approximately 16 locations on AQP site.
- Periodic groundwater samples will be taken at monitoring wells to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment.

If Alternative 3 in the Draft RAW is approved, the cleanup activities can begin at anytime. The HRC injections will take approximately one week. The cleanup activities for the AQP site will be ongoing until the cleanup goals are met. While the cleanup activities are taking place, you may see the following:

- Workers on-site using construction machinery as well as safety gear.
- Cleanup and monitoring activities may take several months to several years.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

As part of the Draft RAW process, a Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) has been prepared for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. This document will be filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. The Draft NOE is DTSC's finding that the proposed cleanup will not have a potential for significant effects on the environment or human health because of controls in place during remediation. The Draft NOE is available for public review and comment. The Draft NOE is available at the Information Repositories listed on page 5.

Next Steps

During the 30-day public comment period, the public has an opportunity to review the Draft RAW and Draft NOE. The public has an opportunity to comment on the Draft RAW during the 30-day public comment period which begins on November 12, 2007 and ends on December 19, 2007. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than December 19, 2007 and emailed comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2007.

DTSC will consider all comments received during the comment period before making a final decision on approving, modifying, or denying the Draft RAW. Once a decision has been made, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" document that explains how public comments were considered and how they were, or were not, incorporated into the final cleanup decision for the site. All individuals who submitted comments or questions will be sent a copy of the "Response to Comments" document. A copy of the "Response to Comments" document will also be available at the information repositories.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Draft RAW, Draft NOE, and other site related documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Elmhurst Branch Library

1427 88th Avenue
Oakland, California 94621
(510) 615-5727

DTSC File Room

700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
Please call for an appointment.

Website Information

The Draft RAW and Draft NOE are available online at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/. Enter Oakland for the city and click “Get Report”. Find Aero Quality Plating and click on “Report”. This will take you to DTSC’s database where you will find the Draft RAW, Draft NOE, and other documents related to the Aero Quality Plating site.

If you would like to learn more about the Department of Toxic Substances Control, you can visit us online at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact:

Katharine Hilf
DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3817
khilf@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding public participation and community involvement, please contact:

Chao Thao
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3649 or toll-free at (866) 495-5651
cthao@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact:

Angela Blanchette
DTSC Public Information Officer
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3732
ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the Aero Quality Plating site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Please ask to speak with Chao Thao, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3649.

ANUNCIO

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Aero Quality Plating site please fill out the information below and mail by December 19, 2007. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments when the Final Removal Action Workplan is issued. Also, please provide your name and address if you would like to be added to or removed from the Aero Quality Plating mailing list. Comments must be postmarked by December 19, 2007. Send your comments to:

Katharine Hilf
DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3817
khilf@dtsc.ca.gov

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

- Please add me to Aero Quality Plating site mailing list.
- Please take me off the Aero Quality Plating site mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC to keep you informed of our activities, the list is considered a public record and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Please print name and address clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Comments (*attach additional pages if needed*): _____

Note: Your comments will be considered a public record for this site and, if requested, may be subject to release.