



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Our mission is
to protect
California's people
and environment
from harmful effects
of toxic substances
by restoring
contaminated
properties,
identifying and
promoting safer
ingredients in
consumer products,
and ensuring
stewardship through
enforcement,
regulation and
pollution
prevention.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, October 2011

Ford City, Drill Site 26 Draft Removal Action Work Plan Available for Review

Drill Site 26 (DS 26) is one of eight former drill sites that are part of Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 2 (NPR-2) created by Executive Order in 1912 to preserve potential petroleum resources for national defense purposes. The drill sites were never used for their intended purpose and remained as open land within Ford City.

Unauthorized dumping and burning of trash occurred on DS 26 from the 1920s through the 1950s resulting in elevated levels of lead in the soil at DS 26. The draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) proposes to remove the lead contaminated soils from DS 26 for disposal at an appropriate landfill in California. The property is located near the intersection of Ash and Monroe Streets in the southeastern area of Ford City, California.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the removal activities for DS 26 under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement between DTSC and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This final removal action is necessary to obtain the approval for closure of DS 26 and designation of "No Further Action" (NFA). This will enable the owner to transfer or sell the property for the benefit of local residents.

The majority of lead contaminated soil originally present at DS 26 has been previously removed; however, an additional 400 cubic yards of lead contaminated soil remain on site, one foot or more below the existing ground surface. The RAW describes in detail previous investigations and proposed cleanup activities at DS 26 including excavation of lead impacted soils, confirmation sampling to verify the remaining soil is below the residential California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSL) for lead, and importing clean backfill material.

This fact sheet contains information concerning site location, background history for DS 26, site investigations and actions, RAW, proposed cleanup alternatives, recommended cleanup, next steps, and contact information.

Site Location

30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

October 14, 2011 through November 14, 2011

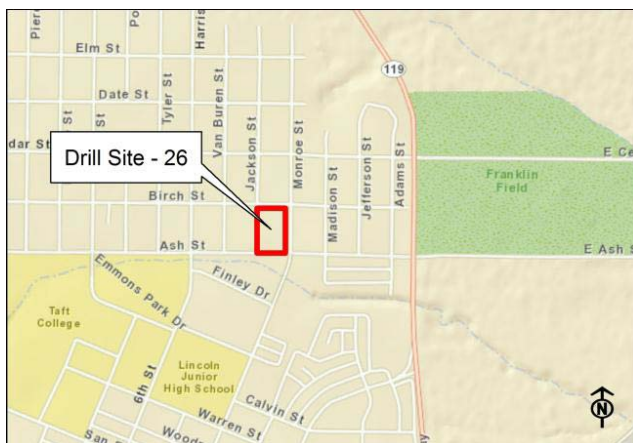
DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the RAW and related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents for the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 2 (NPR-2) Drill Site 26 (DS 26) in Ford City. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period beginning **October 14, 2011**, and ending **November 14, 2011**. All comments must be postmarked or emailed by November 14, 2011. Please submit your comments to:

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FAX: 559-297-3904

Please note, due to low public interest, a public meeting has not been scheduled for this project.



DS 26 is an undeveloped parcel located near the intersection of Ash and Monroe Streets, in the vacant lot bounded on the east by Monroe, on the west by Jackson, on the north by Birch, and on the south by Ash in southeastern Ford City. The parcel is partially overgrown with weeds and separated by an alley. The vacant lot on each side of the alley is fenced on all four sides by a six foot high chain-link fence secured by locked gates. Properties in the vicinity of DS 26 are mainly single-family residences, apartment buildings, churches, and small grocery stores.



Drill Site 26 Location Map

History and Background of Drill Site 26

This former drill site was set aside and reserved along with a number of other sites by the U. S. Government in 1923 when a portion of NPR-2 was allotted for the purpose of establishing Ford City. DS 26 was kept vacant to allow for petroleum extraction, but was never developed or otherwise used by the United States.

As lands were surveyed and divided into lots for town sites, the Federal government reserved the two-acre tract as a “drill site” to provide access to the underlying petroleum resources. Residences were constructed adjacent to the parcel shortly after the establishment of Ford City.

DS 26 was reportedly used as an unauthorized dumping ground where domestic waste was discarded and burned by local residents during the 1920s and 1930s.

Site Investigations and Actions

A series of investigations have been conducted at DS 26 from 1996 to 2004. The site was first identified as a dump in June 1996, when an inspector from the Kern County Environmental Health Services Department (KCEHSD) determined that it had been used for an unauthorized dump site and for burning residential trash. At that time it was assigned a KCEHSD Health Permit.

In 1997 and 2004, soil containing ash with high lead content was removed from the property. At the completion of the soil removal project in 2004, material was imported to fill in the excavations and place a cover of clean soil at the site. Soil with lead concentrations exceeding the residential CHHSL of 80 mg/kg still remain at the site as indicated by grid and confirmation sampling conducted in 2003 and 2004. The remaining soil at DS 26 containing elevated lead levels is one foot or more below the existing ground surface.

Removal Action Work Plan

The primary objective of the RAW is to evaluate cleanup alternatives and to identify a preferred alternative that prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. A RAW summarizes previous studies and identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. The RAW then identifies the alternative DTSC recommends and believes is most appropriate for the site.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny a RAW, the document is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments are reviewed and considered before the RAW is approved.

Proposed Cleanup Alternatives

Three alternatives were evaluated for the DS 26 property.

1. The first alternative is to take no action. This alternative will leave the contamination in place and restrict future use of the property through deed restrictions.

2. The second alternative is to remove lead impacted soil at nine locations within DS 26. These nine locations contain lead above the 2009 residential CHHSL for lead of 80 mg/kg. After lead impacted soil is removed, confirmation sampling will be done at each of the nine locations to confirm that the remaining soil is at or below the CHHSL for lead.
3. The third alternative proposes to cover and cap the entire DS 26 site. . The site would require routine maintenance and would still need to be secured by a fence to protect the cap integrity.

Recommended Cleanup

Based on evaluation of the three cleanup alternatives, the second alternative, lead impacted soil removal at nine locations followed by confirmatory sampling, is the preferred cleanup method identified in the RAW. Approximately 400 cubic yards of lead impacted soil would be excavated from DS 26 and disposed of at a regulated landfill in Buttonwillow.

Confirmation sampling would be conducted to verify that the remaining soil is below the residential CHHSL for lead, 80 mg/kg. The excavation would be backfilled with DTSC approved clean soil. This alternative provides the greatest protection to human health and the environment, is cost effective, and can be readily implemented.

The following activities would be performed under the proposed alternative:

- Excavation and disposal of soil exceeding the residential CHHSL for lead. Each excavation will be visually examined and the excavation extended until visible gray ash and/or dump debris is no longer apparent.
- Collection of confirmation soil samples to verify that site specific cleanup goals have been met.
- Characterization of soil for offsite disposal.
- Backfilling of excavated areas with clean soil.

In addition, the following proposed controls designed to protect the surrounding community will be implemented during cleanup activities that will include the following:

- The removal action will be planned and conducted to minimize the amount of time the excavation will be open and subject to wind erosion and generation of air borne dust.
- Dust control measures will be implemented prior to the start of work and maintained each day until the removal action is completed. At a minimum, dust control will include wetting the excavations and material as it is removed.
- Decontamination/rinse water will be collected on site for proper disposal.
- The general public will be notified of the schedule for excavation/removal of the contaminated soil and encouraged to minimize travel near the site in order to minimize potential exposure.
- Site visitors will be required to sign in, receive a Safety and Health briefing, and will be required to wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Next Steps

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the proposed plan, we will review and consider the comments received during the 30-day public comment period. After the close of the public comment period, DTSC will prepare a Response to Comments document. This document will list the comments received and how they were considered prior to making a final decision on the RAW. The Response to Comments will be placed in the information repositories established for the site.

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption

In compliance with CEQA, DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the proposed actions at DS 26. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have significant impact on the environment or human health because of the controls in place during the cleanup process. Notice of Exemption is part of

the administrative record for this project and a copy will be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.

Where to Find the Documents

The RAW and other related documents for the proposed final remedy are available for review at the following repositories:

Taft Library

27 Emmons Park Drive
Taft, CA 93268
(661) 763-3294

Documents Available Online at the DTSC

EnviroStor database:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=71002340
(Click the "Community Involvement" tab)

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about this Fact Sheet or the draft RAW, please contact the following DTSC staff:

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For Media Inquiries **Only**
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Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals and Community Members that require Translation

All documents made available to the public by the DTSC can be made available in alternative format (e.g. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law. Please contact Tim Chauvel for more information.

TTY/TDD/STS users dial 711 (for the California Relay Service) and ask for Mike Pfister.

For more information about DTSC:

Visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov