

Fact Sheet #1
April 2001

Downey Vendors Industrial Property Bells Gardens



FIELD WORK ANNOUNCEMENT

*It is DTSC's
mission to protect
public health
and the
environment
from
harmful exposure
to hazardous
substances.*

INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to announce to the community upcoming field work at the Downey Vendors Industrial Property.

DTSC is overseeing cleanup activities of the responsible party, Downey Vendors Industrial Property, to investigate site conditions and determine an appropriate cleanup strategy. Downey Vendors Industrial Property is currently used by a vending supplier and is located at 6814 Suva Street in the City of Bell Gardens, immediately adjacent to the [Suva Elementary School](#) to the west.

The field work will begin in early April 2001 to investigate potential hazardous waste contamination at the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site. This investigation will better determine the extent of contamination by collecting and analyzing soil samples at the site. Downey Vendors Industrial Property is funding the site cleanup activities.

Downey Vendors Industrial Property has contracted with Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech), an environmental company, to perform specific field work activities in April 2001, and will last approximately two weeks.

This fact sheet is part of a public participation program to provide the interested community with information on the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site and to encourage public input throughout the investigation and cleanup

UPCOMING

OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DTSC is currently planning an open house and community meeting to present information to the public regarding site activities on the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site and to receive community questions and concerns. You will be notified of this upcoming open house and community meeting in another mailing in the near future.

For information on the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site activities, please contact Ms. Patricia Saucedo, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5480. For information on the upcoming open house and community meeting currently being planned, please contact Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5354. For information in Spanish, please contact Ms. Patricia Saucedo, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5480.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our web site: www.dtsc.ca.gov.

State of California



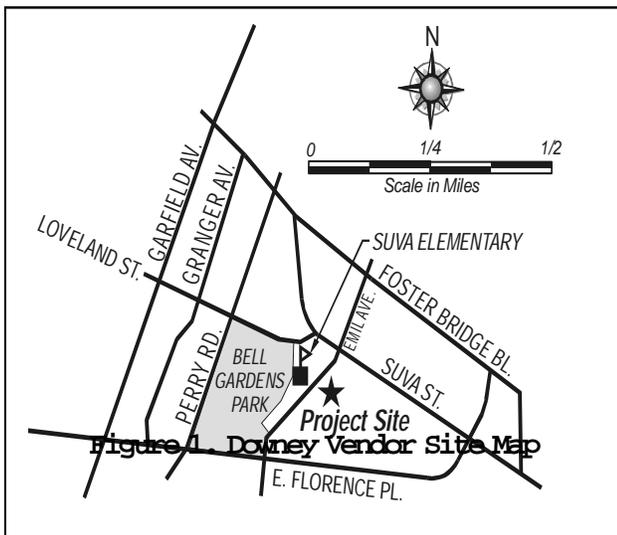
California
Environmental
Protection Agency



process. This fact sheet also includes a brief site history, information about past site investigations, a description of the site evaluation process and information on an upcoming open house and community meeting, which is currently being planned. Additional information is available by reviewing associated key site documents at the local Information Repositories or contacting DTSC staff.

SITE HISTORY

Downey Vendors Industrial Property is immediately adjacent to Chrome Crankshaft Company and J&S Chrome Plating Company. Both companies were formerly in the chrome-plating business. Downey Vendors purchased the vacant property from Chrome Crankshaft Company in 1979 and constructed the present warehouse facility the following year. Since completion, Downey Vendors has occupied the facility and operated a vending machine business. This is a service business that has not been involved in manufacturing or use of any hazardous materials.



PREVIOUS SITE INVESTIGATIONS

A Phase I preliminary site assessment was performed in October 1998 to determine the environmental issues of concern prior to construction of a new warehouse. Various reports identified and reviewed showed chrome contamination in soil and groundwater at the adjacent properties: Chrome Crankshaft Company at 6845 East Florence Place and J&S Chrome Plating Company, Inc., at 6863 East Florence Place. Since there was the possibility that the Downey Vendors Industrial Property had been impacted from migration of chromium from these adjoining properties, DTSC did perform a limited soil sampling and analysis the following year. In March 1999, Downey Vendors Industrial Property was in the process of redeveloping the southern vacant lot of the property when DTSC stopped their grading activities and requested analysis of soils for hexavalent chromium. DTSC suspected that hexavalent chromium had migrated to the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site from the adjacent chromium plating operations to the south (Chrome Crankshaft Company) and southeast (J&S Chrome Plating Company). Soil samples taken from the vacant southern portion of the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site showed elevated levels of hexavalent chromium [maximum concentration of 75.8 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg)].

As a result of DTSC's initial inquiry, an additional limited soil investigation was conducted on March 23, 1999. DTSC supervised the investigation and took duplicate soil samples for analysis. A total of 13 samples were taken near surface and analyzed for metals. Hexavalent chromium was detected in 10 of 13 samples.

DTSC has determined that further study is necessary to fully characterize the types and quantities of contamination present and to evaluate cleanup alternatives. In December 1999, DTSC and Downey Vendors Industrial Property signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement to investigate and cleanup the site under DTSC oversight. The first step in this process is the field work scheduled for April 2001.

FIELDWORK ACTIVITIES

Field work will be performed on the Downey Vendors Industrial Property beginning in April 2001 and will last for approximately two weeks. The purpose of this fieldwork is to evaluate the extent of any onsite soil contamination. Soil samples will be collected to determine the nature and extent of the contamination.

Specific field work activities will include the drilling of 32 soil borings throughout the vacant portion and parking area of the site. Soil borings will be drilled to total depth of 20 feet below the ground surface. Soil samples will be collected at various depth intervals and analyzed for hexavalent chromium and various other metals.

Field work operations will generally be confined to the hours of 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Drilling rigs will be required for the soil borings. Drillings rigs and other heavy equipment may be at the Site during these times. A Health and Safety Plan has been prepared to ensure that the onsite workers are protected and to further ensure no adverse impacts to the surrounding community occur. It requires protective clothing for the sampling team and air monitoring procedures.

SITE EVALUATION PROCESS

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to identify types, quantities, and locations of contaminants present onsite. The results of the investigation will be contained in a future RI report. Based on the investigation results, potential health and environmental concerns will be identified. Alternatives for remedial measures to address these concerns will be evaluated in a Feasibility Study (FS). After the FS is approved, a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) will be prepared summarizing the results of the RI/FS and recommending clean up actions. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan and Health and Safety Plan are available for review in the local Information Repositories.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) - A department within the California Environmental Protection Agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. DTSC was formerly the California Department of Health Services, Toxic Substances Control Division.

Remedial Action Plan (RAP) - A plan approved by DTSC that outlines a specific program leading to the cleanup of a contaminated site.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility - A series of investigations and studies to identify the types and extent of chemicals of concern in the environment (Remedial Investigation) and provide an evaluation of alternatives for cleanup of any identified soil or groundwater. Study (RI/FS)

Chromium - Chromium is an industrial metal used in diverse products and processes. It is also an essential human nutrient at minute amounts. Chromium has three main forms: chromium(0), chromium(III) and chromium(VI). Hexavalent Chromium is Chromium VI. Chromium is used for making steel and other alloys, bricks in furnaces, and dyes and pigments. It is also used for chrome plating, leather tanning, and wool preserves. Chromium has no taste or odor. Hexavalent chromium is a known carcinogen that can enter the body through inhalation (breathing), or through ingestion with food or water, contaminated by the metal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation Program will continue to be implemented during cleanup activities at Downey Vendors Industrial Property site. Public involvement is encouraged by DTSC. The Public will be kept apprised of all new opportunities to provide input to DTSC's decision-making process.

For further information on public involvement opportunities, please call Ms. Stacey Lear at (714)484-5354.

Mailing Coupon Cupón para Enviar por Correo

If you are not currently on the mailing list or know of an individual or group that would like to be added to the Downey Vendors Industrial Property mailing list, please complete and return the mailing coupon. Please address all mailings to: Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630.

Si actualmente usted no está en la lista de direcciones o sabe de alguna persona o grupo que desee que se agregue a la lista de direcciones de Downey Vendors Industrial Property, por favor llene y regrese este cupón para enviar por correo. Por favor dirija toda la correspondencia a: Srta. Stacey Lear, Especialista de Participación del Público, del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas a 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, California 90630.

NAME/NOMBRE: _____

AFFILIATION/AFLIACIÓN: _____

STREET/CALLE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP/CUIDAD/ ESTADO/ZONA POSTAL: _____

PHONE/TELEFONO: _____

COMMENTS/COMENTARIOS: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

La lista de direcciones del DTSC tiene solamente el propósito de mantener informada a las personas de las actividades que está llevando a cabo el DTSC. Por lo general, las listas de direcciones no se dan a conocer a partes externas. Sin embargo, se consideran expedientes públicos y, si se solicita, pueden estar sujetos a que se publiquen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like additional information about the Downey Vendors Industrial Property please call the contacts listed below or visit and refer to the documents available at one of the Information Repositories.

DTSC PROJECT CONTACTS:

Ms. Patricia Saucedo
Project Manager
(714) 484-5480

Ms. Stacey Lear
Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484- 5354

DTSC MEDIA CONTACT:

Ms. Lisa Kunz
Assistant Public Information Officer
(916) 324-8304

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES:

Commerce Central Library
Reference Section
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA
(323) 722-6660
Call for hours

Bell Gardens Public Library
Reference Section
7110 Garfield Avenue
Bell Gardens, CA
(562) 927-1309
Call for hours

Administrative Record Location
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90640
Contact Julie Johnson for an appointment
(714) 484-5333

Notice to Hearing Impaired: You can obtain additional information using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Patricia Saucedo, Project Manager at (714) 484-5480 regarding the Downey Vendors Industrial Property site.



Ms. Stacey Lear
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630