



UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

CURTIS PARK SITE, SACRAMENTO

Fact Sheet -- Project Update -- Clean-up Actions -- July 1999

DTSC RELEASES TASK FORCE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to announce the release and summarize the findings of the DTSC Union Pacific Railyard Task Force Report entitled "Evaluation of Site Characterization, Union Pacific Curtis Park Railyard, Sacramento California." The Union Pacific Curtis Park site covers about 94 acres, consisting of an inactive eastern portion, and an active railyard in the western portion. The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was approved in 1995 specifying how the Railyard should be remediated of hazardous substances. During the excavations implementing the RAP, substantial additional ***Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)*** were discovered in the soil. This discovery resulted in increased community concern and DTSC's need to review the Railyard investigation.

This fact sheet:

- ◆ provides background leading to the establishment of the Task Force;
- ◆ summarizes the Task Force's findings and recommendations;
- ◆ describes future plans;
- ◆ has a glossary defining terms in bold italics;
- ◆ lists information repositories and contacts.

BACKGROUND

In response to Union Pacific's announcement of the discovery of additional Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in March 1999 and questions posed by State Senator Ortiz and Assemblyman Steinberg in their correspondence to DTSC, DTSC formed a review Task Force to evaluate all clean-up investigation work done at the Railyard. The Task Force included an expert on sample analysis and dioxins from the Hazardous Materials Laboratory, a toxicologist from the Human and Ecological Risk Division, a chemist from the Chemical Services Unit, and a geologist from the Geologic Services Unit. Also joining the Task Force were three staff from the Site Mitigation Program. They contributed their familiarity with the Railyard as well as their expertise in site investigation.

The mission of the Task Force was to identify any omissions in the investigation of contamination at the Railyard and to recommend appropriate follow up actions. The steps completed before DTSC issued this report included:

- ▶ review of historical Railyard information to identify the industrial operations conducted at the Railyard and potential chemical products and wastes associated with the identified operations;
- ▶ preparation of a Conceptual Site Model to identify potential sources of contamination and potential exposures to the public;

- ▶ comparison of information from the Conceptual Site Model to the information used in the development of the 1995 RAP to identify any omissions in the Railyard investigation; and,
- ▶ provide recommendations for further actions to fill any identified gaps in the investigation.

After reviewing data from over 1300 soil samples, the Task Force focused on several potential omissions. Task Force members followed up by examining information collected from other site investigations, neighborhood contacts, Union Pacific, scientific literature, and personal communications with experts both inside and outside DTSC. From this analysis, the Task Force made two recommendations for further action.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force concluded that, with two exceptions, the Railyard was well investigated and that the investigation identified a comprehensive list of contaminants. The two exceptions were the extent of PAHs and the potential for elevated levels of *dioxins* in the former waste pond area.

The Task Force recommends:

- a. **further sampling and analysis to more accurately determine the extent of PAH contamination;**
- b. **further sampling and analysis to determine the possible formation of dioxin from occasional burning of liquid material at the former waste pond,** suspected of having received chlorinated solvents, oils, fuels and other waste materials.

See the map on page four for the location of the former waste pond.

In the former pond area, the Task Force noted a black layer in several soil boring logs. The Task Force recommends sampling the black residue to determine if dioxins may have formed and what concentrations are present.

FUTURE PLANNED ACTIONS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and DTSC have recognized one part per billion (ppb) dioxin *Toxic Equivalency (TEQ)* in soil as a level protective of human health for unrestricted or residential land use. If dioxins occur above one ppb TEQ in samples collected from the former pond area, then DTSC will undertake additional investigation and may propose remedial action.

The next steps beyond the sampling for dioxins include the following:

- ◆ Further characterization of PAHs in the inactive Railyard;
- ◆ After the results of the dioxin sampling are known, DTSC will issue an *Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)* from the 1995 RAP and give the community an opportunity to comment on the ESD, while allowing the remedy to move forward. DTSC will also issue an updated Initial Study under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), reflecting knowledge gained since the 1995 RAP and the changes in the project;
- ◆ The Draft ESD will undergo public review and comment; and,
- ◆ DTSC will hold a public meeting to answer questions from the public and to present information about the Draft ESD.

GLOSSARY

Dioxins -- A group of generally toxic organic compounds that may be formed as a result of incomplete combustion (as may occur in incineration of compounds containing chlorine or occur as impurities in chemical products). Dioxins are rapidly absorbed from the skin and gastrointestinal tract.

Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) -- Major changes from the original Remedial Action Plan that do not fundamentally alter the overall remedial approach to a site's contamination.

Polycyclic or polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs or PNAs) -- Chemical compounds formed as a result of natural processes (eg. forming of coal deposits) or incomplete combustion of fuels. PAHs or PNAs are found in a wide variety of common materials such as charcoal, diesel exhaust, asphalt, roofing materials, fireplace soot and burnt meats or vegetables. Certain of these compounds are suspected to cause cancer. They tend not to move in the environment because they adhere to the soil and do not dissolve easily in water.

Toxic Equivalency (TEQ) -- Dioxins are a mixture of compounds having different toxicities. This value reflects the total toxicity of all the dioxin compounds detected in samples.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES AND CONTACTS

The Task Force Report, "Evaluation of Site Characterization, Union Pacific Curtis Park Railyard, Sacramento California" dated July 1 1999 as well as other documents related to the Railyard are available at the following locations:

Belle Cooledge Library
Reference Librarian
5600 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822

(916) 264-2700

Sacramento City College Library
Reference Desk
3835 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 558-2461

Sacramento City Clerk
915 I Street, Room 304
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 264-5799

The Full Administrative Record is available for public review at the DTSC Sacramento Office.

If you have questions about the Task Force Report or the future clean-up activities at the Railyard, please feel free to contact:

Fernando Amador
Project Manager
(916) 255-3737

Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3650

Department of Toxic Substances Control
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95827

MAILING LIST INFORMATION

If you would like to receive future mailings on the Railyard and did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, please complete the coupon below and return it to Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95827.

DTSC mailing lists 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.

PLEASE ADD MY NAME TO THE UNION PACIFIC CURTIS PARK MAILING LIST

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:
TDD users can obtain additional information about the Union Pacific Railroad by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650.

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95827
Attention: Nathan Schumacher**

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 2857



Inside:

- **DTSC issues Task Force Report on UP Railyard**
- **DTSC will order sampling for dioxins**

