

Laws, Regulations &

Pollution Prev

Managing Hazardous Waste

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

Public Involvement

Cleanup

Science & Tech



State of
California



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

DTSC Proposes Groundwater Cleanup at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site

FACT SHEET, October 2005

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on a draft plan to cleanup and control the solvent, ***trichloroethene (TCE)*** and ***perchlorate*** in groundwater below and south of the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site (IRCTS). Comments are also invited for a proposal by DTSC to require a deed restriction for residual solvents in soil below the Kappa/Gamma Complex on the IRCTS. The IRCTS is located about 15 miles east of Sacramento in Rancho Cordova, California (please see Figure 1).

Soil and groundwater investigations conducted since 1983 have revealed low concentrations of solvents in the soil below Kappa/Gamma. In addition, solvents and perchlorate have been detected in groundwater below the IRCTS, and solvents have been detected in groundwater south of the IRCTS. As a result, DTSC proposes to deed restrict Kappa/Gamma and to begin groundwater cleanup below and south of the IRCTS under an Interim Remedial Action Plan (IRAP). DTSC proposes a ***Negative Declaration*** under the California Environmental Quality Act for this project.

This fact sheet tells you about the IRCTS. It identifies who can answer your questions, and where you can find the studies that have been done on the IRCTS. The fact sheet also tells you how you can comment on what DTSC proposes to do for the cleanup. You may find the meaning of the words in bold italics in a Glossary on page 4 of this fact sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND MEETING

DTSC will accept oral or written comments at the public meeting on:

October 25, 2005
6:30 PM
Mitchell Middle School
2100 Zinfandel Drive
Rancho Cordova CA 95670

You may comment on the Draft IRAP and the proposed Negative Declaration from October 13 to November 14, 2005. Please send your comments to:

Ed Cargile
DTSC
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826
Ecargile@dtsc.ca.gov.

To request accommodations for the meeting, please call or email Nathan Schumacher by October 18, 2005, (916) 255-3650 or NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov one week before the meeting date.



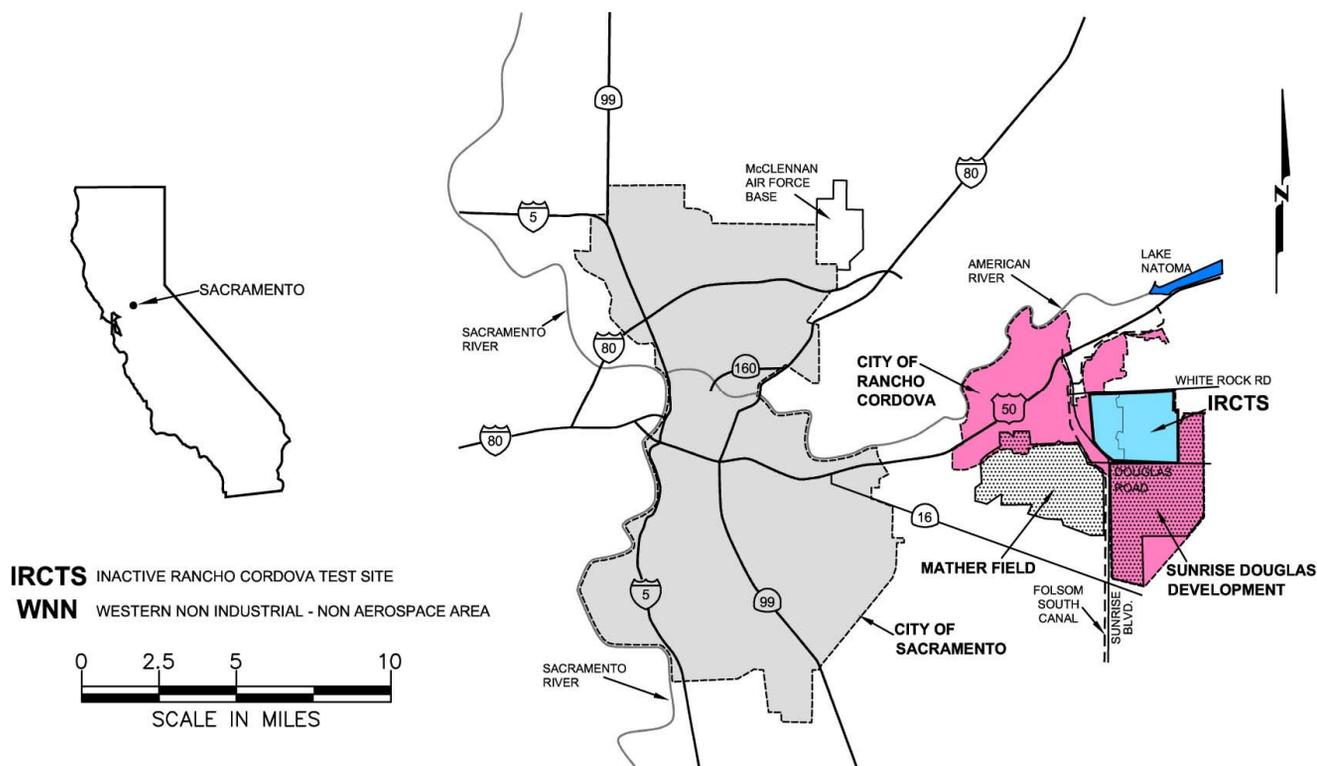


Figure 1 – Site Location Map

Background

McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC), now owned by The Boeing Company, and the Aerojet General Corporation (Aerojet) used the IRCTS between 1956 and 1969. Among other aerospace related activities, MDC tested solid-rocket motors and liquid rocket engines in three areas on the south half of the IRCTS. Two of these areas, the Administration Area (now Security Park) and the Alpha/IOC-1 Complex are sources for solvents found in groundwater below the IRCTS. The Alpha/IOC-1 Complex has been identified as the source for perchlorate in groundwater below the south half of the IRCTS (please see Figure 2).

The Administration Area occupies about 70 acres within the southeastern portion of the IRCTS and was developed in phases beginning in 1956 with the construction of a Modification Hanger for the Thor rocket program. Beginning in 1959 this area was used to support the Saturn manned-space vehicle program up to 1969. From 1977 to 1984, MDC leased or sold portions of the former Administration Area.

The Alpha/IOC-1 Complex is about 45 acres within the southeastern section of the IRCTS. MDC built two test stands and used them from 1956 to 1969 to test rockets.

The Kappa/Gamma Complex is about 33 acres on the eastern side of the IRCTS and was used by MDC and Aerojet to evaluate the launch procedures for the Thor missile under simulated adverse weather conditions and to test rocket systems and fuels. The last tests at Kappa/Gamma occurred about 1969.

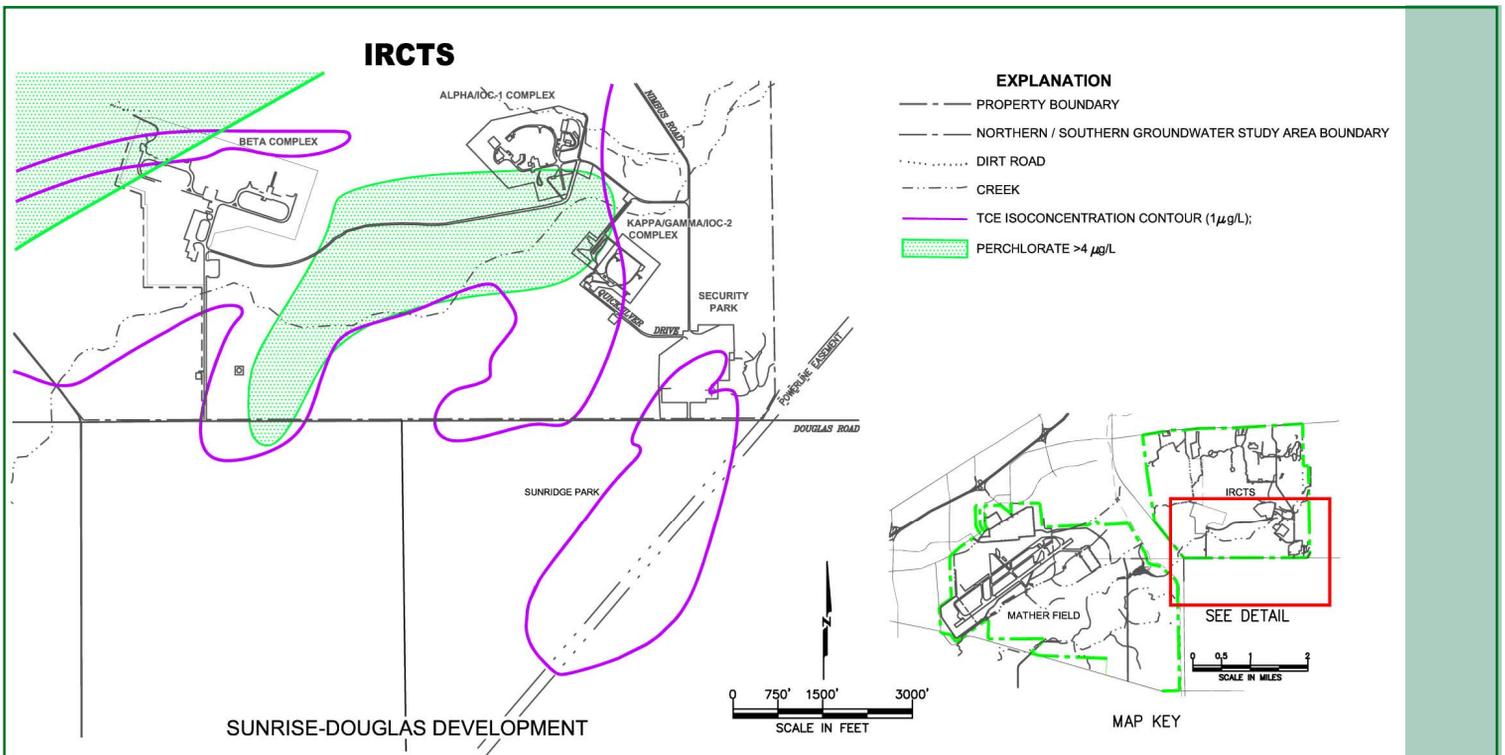


Figure 2 – Southern IRCTS Showing the Extent of TCE and Perchlorate Contaminated Groundwater

The Groundwater Investigation

Since 1992 groundwater samples have been collected from wells on the IRCTS. Sampling has revealed a solvent (*Trichloroethene or TCE*) in the groundwater as well as perchlorate. In general, only Perchlorate and TCE have been found in groundwater samples from wells south of the IRCTS. Both chemicals have been reported at levels that would be considered a concern for human health and the environment.

Proposed Cleanup Plan

If approved, this proposed cleanup plan will include:

- Groundwater extraction wells to pump out impacted groundwater;
- Up to two facilities to treat impacted groundwater, using carbon and resin filters; and,
- Put the treated water back into the aquifer through injection wells and/or ponds or discharge to Morrison Creek.

As an interim measure, the plan is to control the contamination along and south of Douglas Road (Please see Figure 3). It is anticipated that the interim system will operate for about two to four years before starting up the final remedy.

Proposed Kappa/Gamma Remedy

Low concentrations of TCE and methylene chloride have been found in soil below the Kappa Gamma area, where rocket tests occurred in the 1960s (please see Figure 3). Based on these low concentrations, DTSC does not propose any soil cleanup. However, DTSC does propose a deed restriction for water extraction or discharge to the surface or subsurface at the Kappa Gamma area.

Proposed Environmental Impact Decision

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC reviews the potential for any negative impact to the environment from a proposed project. DTSC did an initial study that showed that no significant impacts are likely. Thus, DTSC proposes a **Negative Declaration**.

For More Information

If you have questions about the Draft IRAP, please contact:

DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Nathan Schumacher, (916) 255-3650 or
NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Project Manager
Ed Cargile, (916) 255-3703 or
ECargile @dtsc.ca.gov

If you are from the media, please contact DTSC Public Information, Ron Baker at (916) 324-3142 or
RBaker@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea informacion en espanol, comuniquese con Fernando Amador, (916) 255-3737.

Glossary

Negative Declaration – A document required under the California Environmental Quality Act that describes the study of potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. If the department study shows no creation of an adverse environmental impact, DTSC can issue a Negative Declaration for the action.

Perchlorate –a chemical used to speed the burning of rocket fuel, explosives, fireworks, and road flares among other items. Health studies have observed that this chemical can disrupt hormone production in the human thyroid gland.

Trichloroethene (TCE) – A volatile, degreasing solvent for metal parts that was used at the various IRCTS facilities. TCE is the most common soil and groundwater contaminant at the IRCTS, and is the most commonly found industrial chemical in groundwater in the United States. It is a probable human carcinogen.

Information Repositories

The draft IRAP, and the proposed Negative Declaration, are part of the Administrative Record for the IRCTS. You can review them as well as other documents at the following locations:

Rancho Cordova Public Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Sacramento CA 95827
(916) 264-2700

DTSC File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826
(916) 255-3779

Notice to hearing impaired individuals

TDD users can obtain information by using the California State Relay Service (888) 877-5378 to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding IRCTS.

