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 – January 2011

DTSC proposes clean up of two County burn dumps at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site Rancho Cordova, California

Introduction

This fact sheet invites your comments and questions on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) proposed closure of White Rock Dump #1 (WRD1) at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site (IRCTS) and White Rock Dump #2 (WRD2) at the Aerojet Site. The IRCTS is located approximately 15 miles east of Sacramento in a newly developing area of southeastern Rancho Cordova, California (please see Figure 1 on page two). The Aerojet Site is located north of the IRCTS.

Under DTSC's oversight, Sacramento County and Aerojet-General Corporation have prepared a Draft Remedial Action Plan (Draft RAP) that describes how we propose to close the two 1950s County burn dumps on Aerojet property. In addition, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has proposed a Negative Declaration for this work.

This fact sheet also provides information on the history of the IRCTS, WRD1 and WRD2, public involvement information, places to review site information, contacts for answers to questions, and the IRCTS mailing list.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Presentation on this Draft RAP

February 2, 2011 6:30 PM
Rancho Cordova City Hall
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Public Comment Period

Begins on: January 14, 2011
Ends on: February 15, 2011

Please send written comments to:

Ed Cargile, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200
ECargile@dtsc.ca.gov

Site History

The IRCTS was formerly used by the Douglas Aircraft Company and then by the McDonnell Douglas Corporation for various aerospace testing programs from 1956 through 1969. Aerojet-General Corporation acquired the property in 1984; and McDonnell Douglas became a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Boeing Company in 1997. In the early 1980s, McDonnell Douglas developed its former administration area into Security Park and sold the property to various commercial and light industrial businesses.

Prior to aerospace, the property was dredged extensively for gold and used for livestock grazing and other agricultural purposes. Small portions were also used by Sacramento County as a burn dump for municipal wastes, by a commercial firm to burn rice hulls to produce an oil absorbent known as Greasweep, and by various businesses to produce livestock feeds and fertilizers.

Beginning in 1991, DTSC required Aerojet and McDonnell Douglas to investigate the former aerospace facilities to determine whether past operations contaminated soil or groundwater (Figure 2). Aerojet and Boeing have collected numerous samples during the last 18 years and they presented the data in various reports about each aerospace facility. DTSC has determined that certain areas needed to be cleaned up for soil and/or groundwater. Descriptions of other remedial actions are available in previous DTSC Fact Sheets.

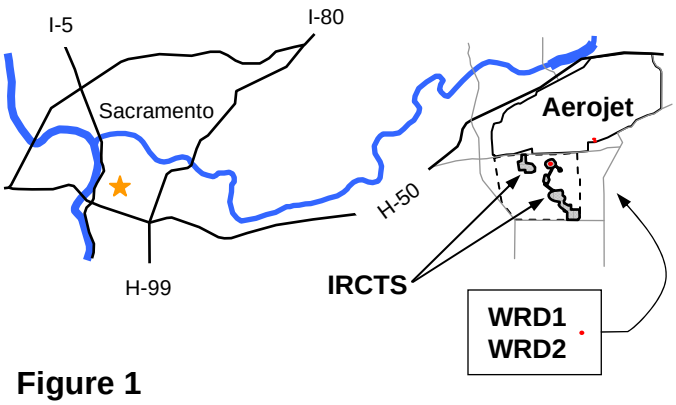

Figure 1

The WRD1 portion of the IRCTS consists of approximately 50 acres of dredge tailings with the 6-acre burn dump at the center. A 500-foot buffer was established around WRD1 to address potential concerns over noise, dust, and visual appearance. WRD2 is located on the Aerojet Site and has about 5 acres of tailings on the south central side of the Site.

Please see Figure 1 for the locations of these dumps.

WRD1 was operated between 1952 and 1957 for the disposal of household garbage in eastern Sacramento County. Thereafter, Aerojet allowed a similar operation at WRD2 on its Site for about 6 months. The burn debris is comprised of rusted cans, glass bottles, ceramics, small automotive parts, clinker or locomotive debris, ash, and other refuse.

The City of Rancho Cordova is currently evaluating the Aerojet development proposal for the Rio del Oro project under CEQA and the city's decisions on that project will affect future land use at the IRCTS. A park and /or open-space preserve are the proposed land uses for the closed WRD1 area.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of WRD1 and WRD2

The investigations of WRD1 and WRD2 began in 1992 and 1994, respectively. Numerous samples of soil and/or soil gas were collected for laboratory analysis of ***volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs & SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, perchlorate, and/or metals.***

Lead and several other metals, and dioxins were found at concentrations that exceeded levels protective of human health and the environment. The samples did not contain significant concentrations of VOCs (a group of chemicals that evaporate at temperatures normally found at the ground surface), SVOCs and PCBs (chemicals that do not easily

evaporate), and perchlorate (a salt used in solid rocket propellant, road flares, and other combustible products).

Lead concentrations ranged up to 12,000 parts per million (ppm) in the burn debris and the average was about 2300 ppm. For residential land use, the DTSC soil action level for lead is 146 ppm.

Dioxins are a group of generally toxic organic compounds that can form during the incomplete burning of materials containing chlorine. Dioxins are highly toxic and are rapidly absorbed from the skin and gastrointestinal tract. Sampling found dioxin concentrations ranging up to 50 parts per trillion (ppt) in the burn debris and the average was 33 ppt. For residential land use, the DTSC soil action level for dioxin is 4.6 ppt.

The feasibility study evaluated three remedial action alternatives for WRD1: native soil cover, complete removal of the burn debris to an approved landfill, and geosynthetic clay-liner cover.

The feasibility study showed that a native cover was the most effective alternative for WRD1 after consolidation of WRD2 debris at WRD1.

What is being proposed?

The draft RAP proposes the following actions:

- Dig up burn debris and contaminated soil at WRD2 to industrial levels and transport the material to WRD1.
- Consolidate WRD2 debris with WRD1 debris into the smallest possible area.
- Spray water on debris and soil to control dust during excavation, transport, and consolidation activities.
- Collect samples for laboratory analysis to confirm the removal of contaminated soil.
- Cover debris with 4 feet of compacted native soil and grade for proper drainage to minimize rainwater infiltration. Revegetate area.
- Record land use covenants for both WRD2 and WRD 1 areas, to establish future authorized uses. The WRD 1 restriction includes a 100-foot buffer
- Establish a long-term Operations and Maintenance Agreement with DTSC to maintain the integrity of the cover to protect human health and the environment.

When will the work occur?

DTSC anticipates that the work will be completed during the fall of 2011.

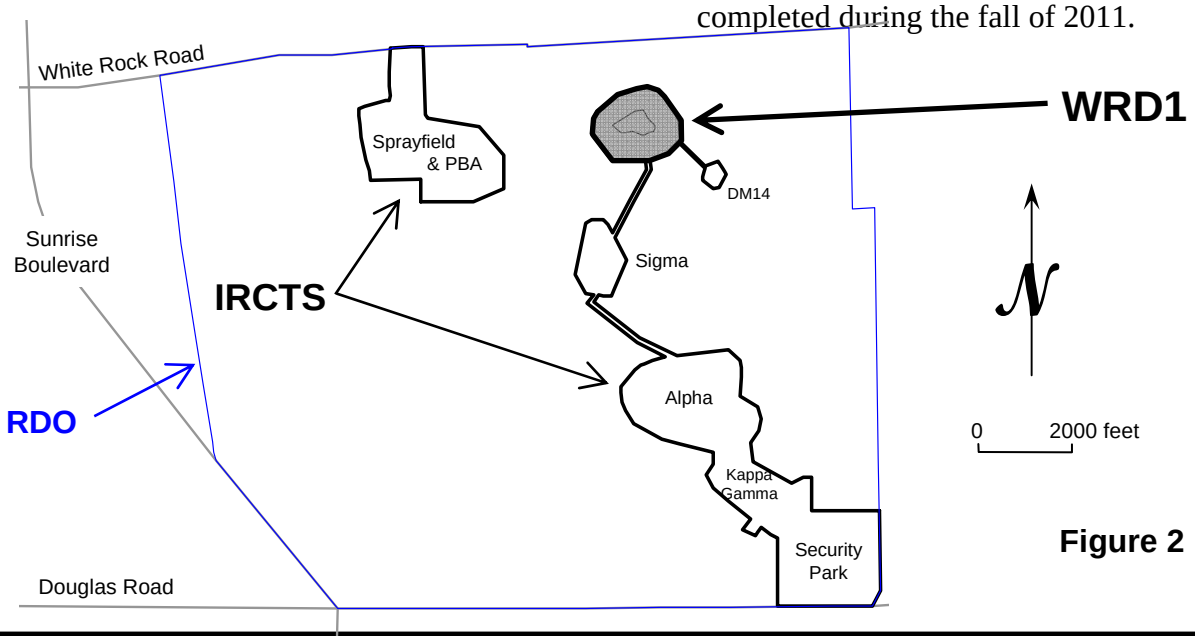

Figure 2

Public Involvement

You may review and comment on the Draft RAP and proposed CEQA Negative Declaration. The public comment period begins on January 14, 2011 and ends on February 15, 2011. Documents are available for public review at the DTSC information repository (please see next column). Written comments must be delivered or postmarked by the end of February 15, 2011, and should be sent to:

Ed Cargile, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200
ECargile@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will review and respond in writing to all comments before making a decision on the Draft RAP.

CEQA Negative Declaration

In order to meet DTSC's obligations under the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC prepared an Initial Study that evaluates the potential environmental impacts that result from the actions proposed in the Draft RAP. DTSC has decided that the Draft RAP activities are unlikely to produce any significant impact to public health or the environment.

Therefore, DTSC has proposed a Negative Declaration for the WRD1 and WRD2 Draft RAP.

Information Repository

You may review the Draft RAP for WDR1 and WDR2, the proposed CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration and other related documents at the DTSC website:

www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public. Please type in Rancho Cordova in the dialogue box.

The Draft RAP can be reviewed at the following location:

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

You may review the full administrative record at:

DTSC File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200

Please call Amy Ly at (916) 255-4159 to make the necessary arrangements

Information Contacts

If you have questions, please contact:

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

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

If you are from the media, please contact:

DTSC Public Information
Charlotte Fadipe, (916) 323-3395
CFadipe@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea informacion en espanol, comuniquese con Jesus Cruz, (916) 255-3315

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users may obtain additional information about this project by calling the California State Relay Service (888) 877-5378. Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 about the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site.