



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 – August 2006

DTSC proposes soil cleanup 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 removal action for the Central Area Operable Unit and shallow soils at sites 74 and 80 at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site (IRCTS). The IRC TS 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).

Under DTSC's oversight, Aerojet-General Corporation has prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW) that describes how we propose to remove contaminated soils from sites 74 and 80 (please see figure 2 on page three) and transport them to an authorized permitted landfill. 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 IRC TS, sites 74 and 80, public involvement information, places to review site information, contacts for answers to questions, and the IRC TS mailing list.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Presentation on this Draft RAW

September 27, 2006, 7:00 PM
Aerojet Community Advisory Group
Rancho Cordova City Hall
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

DTSC will talk about the Draft RAW as a part of the Aerojet Community Advisory Group meeting.

Send written comments to:

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

Public Comment Period

Begins on: September 1, 2006
Ends on: October 2, 2006



Site History

The IRCTS was formerly used by the Douglas Aircraft Company and the McDonnell Douglas Corporation for various aerospace testing programs from 1956 through 1969. Aerojet-General Corporation acquired the property in 1984; and McDonnell Douglas Corporation became a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Boeing Company in 1997. In the early 1980s, McDonnell Douglas Corporation 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 Corporation 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 14 years and they presented the data in various reports about each aerospace facility. DTSC determined that certain areas needed to be cleaned up for soil and/or groundwater.

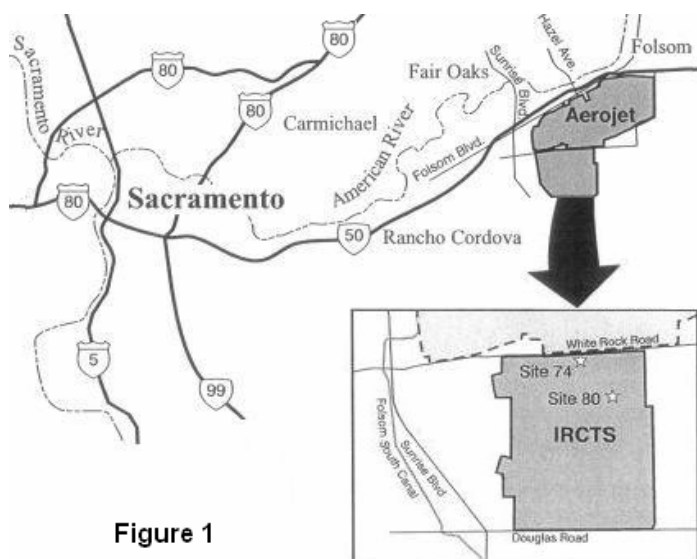


Figure 1

Descriptions of other remedial actions are in previous DTSC Fact Sheets. The Central Area Operable Unit consists of the buffer land around the former aerospace facilities as well as several uncontaminated facilities that DTSC proposes for No Further Action designation. DTSC proposes to include the DM-14 Area, Antenna Station, and Sigma Debris Area in the No Further Action areas, which already include the Beta Complex, Circular Feature, Metal-lined Hole. Please see Figure 2 on page three for the location of these areas.

The City of Rancho Cordova is currently evaluating the Aerojet development proposal for the Rio del Oro project (includes a large portion of the Central Areas Operable Unit) under CEQA and the city's decisions on that project will affect future land use at the IRCTS. Please see the map on page three for the location of Rio Del Oro.

Central Area Operable Unit Remedial Investigation

In January 2004, DTSC established the Central Area Operable Unit for buffer lands around the former aerospace facilities. Aerojet conducted an extensive assessment of these lands and, in October 2004, submitted a plan for further work at several locations with suspected contamination. The assessment report was based on a review of numerous aerial photographs and previous documents on the aerospace facilities, a helicopter survey to identify suspect locations within the rugged dredge tailings, and field reconnaissance to check suspect locations. DTSC inspected many of the areas and the resultant sampling plan sampled nine locations with suspected contamination.

Numerous samples of soil and soil gas were collected for laboratory analysis of *volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs & SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, perchlorate, and/or metals*. In August 2006, DTSC approved the Central Area Operable Unit Remedial Investigation Report.

Volatile organic compounds, a group of chemicals, including solvents such as trichloroethene, that readily evaporate at temperatures normally found at the ground

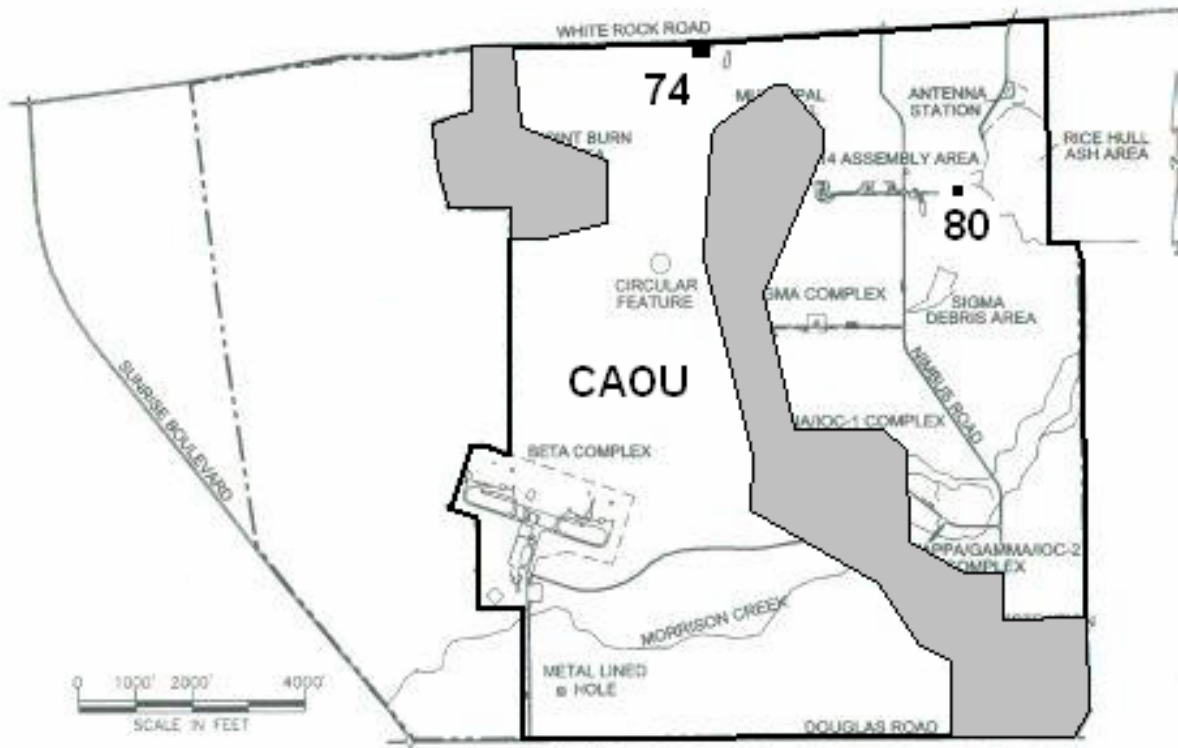


Figure 2 CAOU Lands Excluded Lands Rio Del Oro

surface, semi volatile organic compounds, a group of liquid chemicals that do not easily evaporate, and perchlorate, a salt used in solid rocket propellant, road flares, and other combustible products, were not detected or were not found at significant concentrations. Lead and several other metals, PCBs and dioxins were found at concentrations that exceeded levels protective of human health. Site 74 and site 80 contained quantities of contaminated soils, which are subject to the Draft RAW.

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 1,870 parts per trillion (ppt) at site 74 and up to 116 ppt at site 80. The average dioxin values were 82 ppt for site 74 and 7.2 ppt for site 80. The DTSC proposed soil action level is 6 ppt for dioxins.

Lead concentrations ranged up to 1,300 parts per million (ppm) at site 74 and up to 1,900 ppm at site 80. The average lead values were 234 ppm

for site 74 and 92 ppm for site 80. The DTSC proposed soil action level is 146 ppm for lead.

The volume of soil to be removed is estimated to be approximately 7,600 cubic yards at site 74 and approximately 540 cubic yards at site 80. The area of impacted soil is a total of about 2.6 acres.

Central Area Operable Unit Removal Action Workplan

How was the plan developed?

DTSC and Aerojet based this proposal for sites 74 and 80 on the prescriptive remedies or clean up strategies prescribed by U.S. EPA for use with chemicals such as dioxins in soil. U.S. EPA publishes guidance that gives DTSC and Aerojet cleanup strategies that U.S. EPA believes are the most effective, most cost effective, and most easily put in place for particular cleanup scenarios.

What is being proposed?

The draft RAW proposes the following:

- Dig up contaminated soil and ash piles in various locations. Most of the digging will occur from the ground surface to one foot below the ground surface.

- Use backhoes and loaders to place excavated soil and ash onto plastic in temporary stockpiles and cover with plastic until soil is sampled and classified for disposal in an appropriate landfill.
- Spray water on soil to control dust during excavation, placement in temporary stockpiles, and during loading for transport off-site.
- Take soil samples from excavated areas to make sure all contaminated soil has been removed.
- Water down all equipment to make sure contaminated soil is not taken off-site.
- Transport contaminated soil to an appropriate authorized landfill.

When will the work occur?

DTSC anticipates that the impacted soils will be removed during fall 2006.

Public Involvement

You may review and comment on the Draft RAW and proposed CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration. The public comment period begins on September 1, 2006 and ends October 2, 2006. Documents are available for public review at the DTSC information repository (please see next column). Written comments must be delivered or postmarked by October 2, 2006, 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 RAW.

CEQA Mitigated 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 RAW. DTSC has decided that the Draft RAW activities are unlikely to produce any significant impact to public health or the environment, making an

Environmental Impact Report unnecessary. Therefore, DTSC has proposed a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Central Area Operable Unit Draft RAW in order to provide protection for endangered species habitat (two elderberry shrubs for the elderberry longhorn beetle) located within site 74 and next to site 80.

Information Repository

You may review the Central Area Operable Unit Draft RAW, the proposed CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration and other related documents at the DTSC website, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public, and the following location:

Rancho Cordova Public Library
9845 Folsom Blvd
Sacramento CA 95827

You may review the full administrative record at the:

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

Please call Bobbi Jensen at (916) 255-3779 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 Officer
Carol Singleton, (916) 255-6578
CSinglet@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.