



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, July 2008

DTSC certifies the remedy complete at Mesa De Oro in Sutter Creek

On July 11, 2008, the Department of Toxic Substances Control sent a letter to Honeywell Inc. (Honeywell) and to the city of Sutter Creek certifying that the remedy is complete and fully in place with an operation and maintenance agreement as well as the Sutter Creek Ordinance 15.37 and land use covenant that establishes special building and land use requirements for properties at Mesa De Oro and surrounding areas. This ordinance and this agreement are part of the controls to keep residents from being exposed to arsenic contaminated soils found at Mesa De Oro and surrounding areas. Mesa De Oro is a residential subdivision located east of Highway 49 and north of Bryson Drive in Sutter Creek, California. This fact sheet summarizes the cleanup history and gives you contacts for further information.

History of the cleanup

In 1994, DTSC and United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) found arsenic in the soil of residential properties in and around the Mesa De Oro Subdivision of Sutter Creek, California. In 1996, U.S. EPA installed a protective cap. Soil beneath this protective cap has levels of arsenic which may pose a risk to public health and are above residential land use levels. These contaminated soils were the result of historic mining operations associated with the Central Eureka Mine. Different companies have owned the property and Honeywell is presently the company that retains responsibility to maintain the slope cap.

In 1996, the U.S. EPA completed cleanup of the Mesa De Oro Subdivision and surrounding residential properties including Gold Strike Court, Bryson Drive, Foothill Drive and Vista Court in Sutter Creek, California. U.S. EPA completed this work to control the threat of human exposure to arsenic contaminated soil for these properties.

Protective measures at the Mesa De Oro Subdivision and surrounding areas included placing a one to a two foot clean soil cap placed on properties overlying mine tailings. Some properties at Mesa De Oro, having existing homes and existing landscaping, did not have any soil removed from their lots. The slopes of the mesa were capped with eight inches of clean soil contained within an eight inch thick honeycomb textile material. Existing barriers such as roadways, driveways, sidewalks, and building foundations were left in place in all cases. If you would like information on how the ordinance applies to your property, all lots and their respective remedial actions are contained in an attachment to the Ordinance.

The long-term protection provided by the cleanup efforts will be maintained by the preservation of these barriers and successful implementation of the Sutter Creek City Ordinance and the Operation and Maintenance Agreement.



Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about this work, please contact DTSC's Project Manager, Ms. Tami Trease at (916) 255-3747 or by e-mail at ttrease@dtsc.ca.gov. You may also contact DTSC's Public Participation Specialist, Mr. Nathan Schumacher toll free at (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3650 or by e-mail at nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov. For media inquiries please contact Ms. Claudia Loomis at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail at cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov.

If you wish to contact the City of Sutter Creek, please contact Jeff Kelley, City of Sutter Creek, 18 Main Street, Sutter Creek, CA 95685 at telephone (209) 267-5200 or JKelley@cdepot.net.

You can review these documents that DTSC produced as part of this cleanup on our web site. Please go to <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Please type in "Sutter Creek" and select the "Central Eureka Mine" site.

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about Mesa by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 about Mesa De Oro.